



3 1221 08291 6904

EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY







Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2025 with funding from  
Edmonton Public Library

<https://archive.org/details/31221082916904>



EPL - MILNER











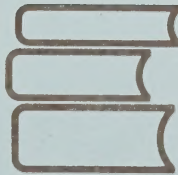




ALBERTA BOOK PROJECT  
1987

# Edmonton Public Library

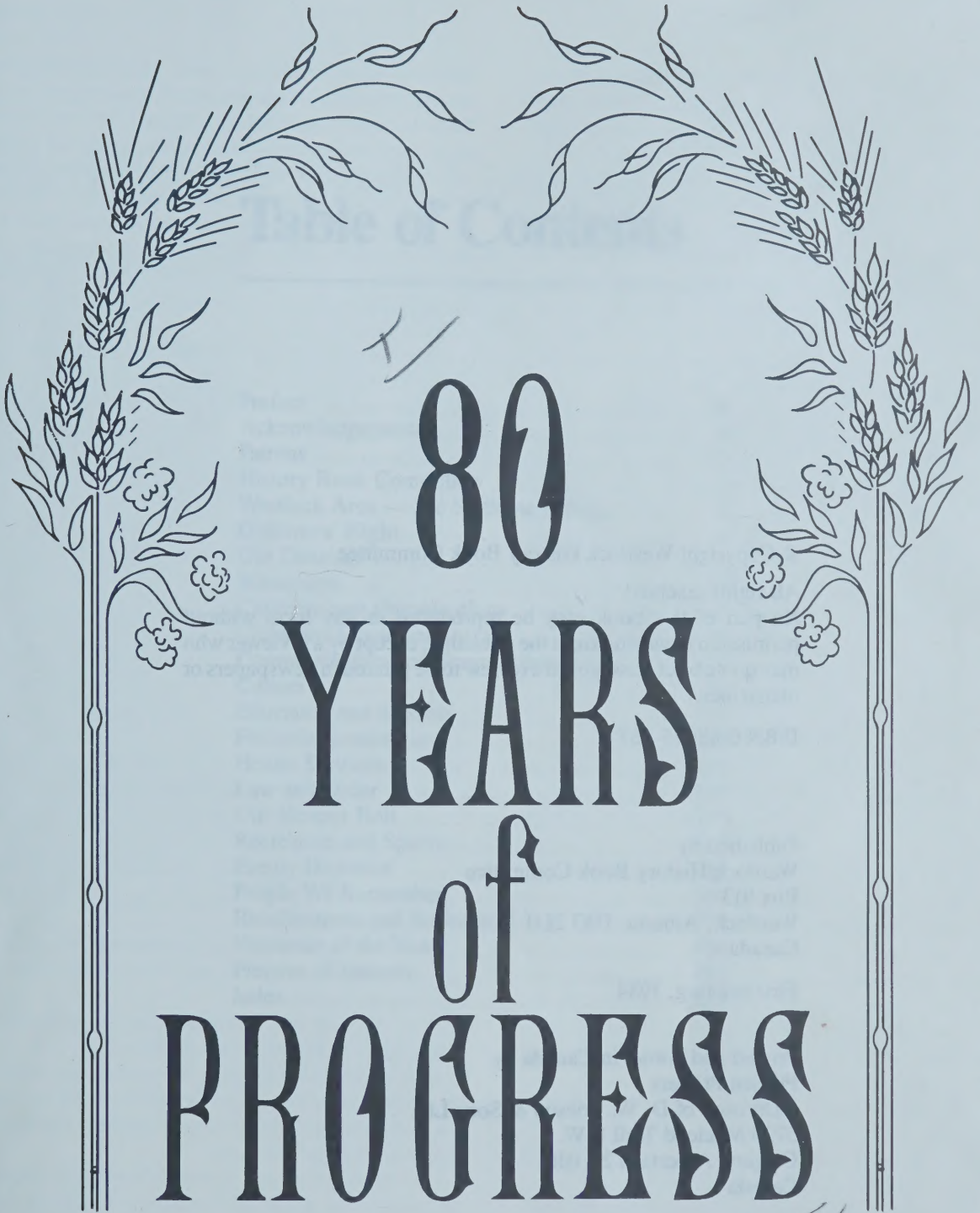
Gratefully acknowledges  
the assistance of the  
Alberta Foundation for  
the Literary Arts in  
purchasing this book







MVI



80  
YEARS  
of  
PROGRESS



© Copyright Westlock History Book Committee

All rights reserved

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review to be printed in newspapers or magazines.

ISBN 0-88925-367-6

Published by  
Westlock History Book Committee  
Box 913  
Westlock, Alberta T0G 2L0  
Canada

First printing, 1984

Printed and bound in Canada by  
Friesen Printers  
a Division of D. W. Friesen & Sons Ltd.  
5720 Macleod Trail S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2H 0J6  
Canada

Head Office  
Altona, Manitoba R0G 0B0  
Canada

# Table of Contents

---

Preface .....	iv
Acknowledgements .....	iv
Patrons .....	v
History Book Committee .....	vi
Westlock Area — Pre Settlement Days ....	vi
Oldtimers' Night .....	xi
Our Districts .....	1
Businesses .....	35
Churches and Organizations .....	61
Clubs and Organizations .....	87
Communication and Transportation .....	111
Culture .....	121
Education and Schools .....	129
Financial Institutions .....	231
Health Services .....	235
Law and Order .....	247
Our Honour Roll .....	253
Recreation and Sports .....	265
Family Histories .....	281
People We Remember .....	864
Recollections and Reflections .....	871
Volunteer of the Year .....	886
Pictures of Interest .....	887
Index .....	925



# Preface

---

This book is, as near as possible, a record of the pioneer days of the Westlock district. It was conceived by the Old Timers Association in the Spring of 1981 and has, through the efforts of many dedicated volunteers, become a volume that will be read with deep interest by future generations. It depicts the struggle to exist which all of the settlers in the area experienced as they cleared heavily forested land of the growth that had accumulated for centuries; cut trails so as to have communication with each other; raised crops and livestock under adverse situations and made homes for their families in an inhospitable country that tested their faith to the limit.

The editors admit that there may be discrepancies as to the dates of events, where they took place and under what circumstances, but this is inevitable as the sources of information are no longer with us. We

have, however, done our best, in researching the stories and articles that appear on these pages, to get them as nearly accurate as possible. In some cases there were various spellings of the names of places and people which were difficult to verify, and we apologize for any errors that may be evident. We also apologize for the list of settlers and homesteaders not being complete, although this was beyond our control. Some of the descendants of these families had no records to refer to, and others, regrettably, did not wish to be included.

As you read of the trials, heartaches, joys, sorrows, accomplishments, failures, frustration and satisfaction, we hope you will realize the debt we owe these pioneers and will be inspired to continue to improve these communities to which they were so dedicated.

## Acknowledgements

---

The Historical Book Committee of the Westlock and District Old Timers' Association wish to express our special thanks to the Association for their support which gave us the courage to attempt this project.

To the many contributors of stories, treasured pictures and keepsake materials which constituted the substance of this book we are very grateful. Too many years have passed since they happened. The stories would have been much more personal and colorful if they could have been recorded directly from the hearty souls who opened up this area. But, that being impossible we have recorded them as they were passed on to their descendants.

We wish to thank the Alberta Culture and New Horizons for grants that helped make this project possible. Our special thanks to Al. Granger for his patience, direction and encouragement.

The Provincial Archives, Companies and Government Departments that supplied information we thank you.

We, also, would like to give special thanks —

— to all, who undertook special projects and gathered and prepared information for this book.

— to the F.W.U.A. for the use of their historical books.

— to the George and Leonard Sterlings and Frank Edgson for the use of the Old Homestead Record Books.

— to the typists Lizzie Gamble and Stan Coates.

— to all other typists who contributed their services from time to time.

— to Fanny and Jenny Sterling for their artistic book cover design and pen sketches.

— to Stan Coates, who so generously provided accommodation for this undertaking in his basement recreation area. Words cannot express our sincere gratitude for this privilege.

— to our president, Elwood Boyd, who, because of his previous experience gave us confidence. In his own quiet way he guided, encouraged and directed us as well as giving hours and hours of dedicated service to help bring this project to its successful completion.

## Patrons

A & M Store  
Coates, Stanley R.  
Dawson, Rex.  
Elliott, W. J.  
Lyons, Phoebe

McLaughlin Transport  
Price, H. W.  
Renaud, P. E.  
Schlachter, Jacob  
Semeniuk, Sarden

Sterling, Len & Jenny  
Westlock Community Thrift Shop  
Westlock Elks  
Westlock Hardware  
Whissell, Dr. George

## The History Book Committee



History Book Committee. Standing, L. to R.: Lloyd McMillan, Len Sterling, Elwood Boyd, Ida McMillan, Phoebe Lyons, Jenny Sterling, Maise Platt, Al Granger (Friesen Printers Rep.). Seated: Geo. Sterling, Stan Coates, Lizzie Gamble, Fanny Sterling, Dorothy Baker. Inset: Bert Gamble.



## Westlock Area Pre-Settlement Days by J. G. MacGregor

The fertile farming area stretching for miles around Westlock lies mainly in the watershed of the Pembina River. While that river and its tributary, Bath creek, which is known to all residents as the Wabash, drains most of it, some of its melting snows are carried away by the Redwater, which discharges into the North Saskatchewan River, and some make their way down the Tawatinaw River to the mighty Athabasca.

About 9,000 years ago the glaciers, which had covered it for millenia, melted, and the region as we know it began to emerge. Sometime previous to that, an ice-free corridor existed along the edge of the foothills, and down that the Indians, in migrating ever so slowly from Asia, worked their way into what are now the cultivated parts of Alberta and continued south to populate the rest of the Americas. For some 8,000 or 9,000 years, then, the Indians lived in the Westlock area. Although it is probable that the twelve-foot-high woolly mammoths were extinct by the time the first migrants reached the Westlock area, the first wave of them may even have hunted the last survivors of these creatures along the banks of the Pembina. If they did not, they nevertheless found plenty of large game animals, including two or three species of buffalo, fattening on the vegetation that flourished in the wet climate at the southern edge of the melting glacier. During all these thousands of years until the arrival of the first white man, the Indians who wandered through the thick forests of the area lived a nomadic life, depending entirely upon the game supply.

Although Anthony Henday, the first white man to reach Alberta, did not arrive until 1754, nevertheless, the presence of white men on the eastern half of the continent had produced marked changes in the Indian way of life. White men on the east coast of North America traded with the natives of that region, who in turn sold some of these goods to neighbouring Indians for great profits. In this way, European objects found their way into Alberta long before the traders themselves actually arrived. Metal tools, weapons, and other articles soon became indispensable to the western tribes.

The white man's trade goods had become so valuable to the Alberta Indians that for several years before Henday's arrival they made annual excursions down the North Saskatchewan River to trade with the white men at Hudson Bay. Even that early, the Crees, who by that time lit their fires on the banks of the Pembina, the Wabash or the Redwater, sent their young men on these summer-long trips.

Probably we will never know who was the first white man to set foot in the Westlock area. It was not until 1792 that the first Hudson's Bay fur trading post in Alberta was started on the Saskatchewan River, but during the thirty-eight-year interval from Henday's visit until this post was established, many Hudson's Bay Company traders wandered around central Alberta, living and dealing with the Crees. Prominent amongst these were such men as Joseph Smith, Isaac Batt and William Pink, and during that long interval one or other of these men may have reached the Westlock area.

The first man who left us a written record of his travels in the Westlock area was the great surveyor David Thompson, who, in April 1799, set out north from Fort Augustus, which at the time was across the North Saskatchewan River from modern Fort Saskatchewan. With three horses and twenty-five men, he passed close to modern Westlock and struck the Pembina River about the mouth of the Wabash. There, some men he had sent ahead had built a canoe for him. Then, descending the Pembina River to its mouth, he dropped down the Athabasca to the mouth of Lesser Slave Lake River, which he ascended to Lesser Slave Lake. During the summer of 1800, some X.Y. Company employees portaged across from the Saskatchewan River to the Pembina and in five canoes descended it to the Athabasca River. On this trip, according to Peter Fidler, they "had the misfortune to lose several pieces of goods — and two men nearly drowned."

In those days many of the fur traders referred to the Pembina as the Summerberry River. Summerberries were those high bush cranberries (*viburnum trilobum*) which grow so prolifically down near the river and which voyageurs called pimbina or pimbina berries.

After 1802, when Edmonton House was moved to a site within the present city of Edmonton, many fur trading employees, English, French and Scottish, began wandering about in the Westlock country. It was not until 1825, however, when the first white man's pack trail to be chopped out in Alberta passed anywhere near that region. Starting at Edmonton House, it passed the site of St. Albert, headed north-west to run along the east side of Lac La Nonne, crossed the Pembina River, and continued through modern Barrhead to Fort Assiniboine. Three-quarters of a century later this trail was to be used by Klondikers.

Over half a century elapsed before any other trail passed anywhere near the Westlock area. That was the Athabasca Trail, which by 1879 was already a cart trail. By 1883 there had been a bridge over the Sturgeon, for in that year the **Edmonton Bulletin**

reported that it had been swept out in the spring flood, and that a scow had been placed at the crossing to take the goods across. All the larger creeks, including the Tawatinaw, had bridges. The Redwater, called the Vermilion in those days, was crossed by a ferry. In the winter of 1889 a bridge was again built over the Sturgeon and another was placed over the Redwater.

Though these two of the white man's early trails skirted the Westlock region on the east and the west, the whole of that fertile area was left as undisturbed as it had been for thousands of years. Over it, up in the hills of Eastburg, down in the flats of Pibroch, or near Vimy, around the marshes of Lac des Jones (Lake of the Rushes) or of Wakomao or on the sandhills of Nestow, spread the primeaval forest which for thousands of years had been growing and decaying. Side by side stood saplings and forest giants three hundred years old and three to four feet in diameter. In some places, fires, started by lightning or by Indians, had swept through the forest, leaving fallen logs sprawled over each other, but even here nature had come to the rescue, and in a few years had clothed the unseemly mess in new verdure.

There was infinite variety in the forest; little rills trickling over the moss, brooks bordered with ferns to be crossed at a step, cranberry-lined creeks to be waded through or crossed on a fallen log. There were ravines into which one had to descend carefully and clamber up the other side with the aid of small spruces seeking a precarious foothold on its steep side, or meandering rivers fifty or five hundred feet wide tearing at their banks in flood time, gliding by their sandbars in summer's slack water, or level and locked in winter's icy embrace.

But whenever one entered the forest it was always solemn and serene. Sometimes, as in winter, it was infinitely silent as snowflakes hung in the air and swung gently to rest on fallen trunk, broken stump or mossy bank, and then the sun, striving to shine through a troubled sky, illuminated the forest with myriads of scintillating diamonds. Sometimes, in fall while squirrels with dried mushrooms in their mouths scampered from mossy hummocks to deposit them in a forked branch, and partridges with ruffed throat and spasmodically flicking tail padded gently on the carpet of leaves, other leaves, red and yellow and green, fluttered irregularly down, bringing the fruits of the trees' summer work to add another layer to the richness of the forest floor.

All this, and much more, was the forest that like a protecting blanket covered all the hills and valleys of our wedge of Alberta and deposited upon it soil rich and deep with humus.

Here and there, scattered throughout the forest on

the banks of the Pembina, Dapp Creek or the Redwater River, who knows what shacks there may have been as trappers, Metis, or white, went into the forest each winter to tend their trap lines and to gain a livelihood by taking their furs to Fort Edmonton each spring. Here and there, scattered about the forest, little family groups of Cree Indians camped for a few days till they had killed off all the game nearby and then moved on.

Such a family group was that of Kesekoochin, or Swift Runner, but during the short days of the winter of 1879, the same year the Athabasca Trail had been cut out, tragedy overtook them. The game supply failed, and the family faced starvation. Moving about somewhere in the area south of Westlock, Kesekoochin's mind became unhinged, and he began killing and eating his children. All the while he appears to have been moving south, for he killed the last member of his family at Egg Lake, five or six miles north-west of modern Morinville.

When he turned up in the spring without his family, the Crees near St. Albert became suspicious and reported their worries to the North West Mounted Police. When Inspector Gagnon arrested him and took him back to the scenes of his atrocities, he showed him the bones of all of his family but one. They had been cooked; some boiled, and other roasted. At one place where the police stood looking at the remains, Swift Runner put his fingers into the eye sockets of a skull and coolly remarked that this had been his wife. In due course he was hanged and his confession was printed in the **Battleford Herald**, and was as follows:

"I am going to tell the truth. I have done a great deal of wrong, and that is the reason I was backward at telling about it. I did not kill anybody's children only my own. First I shot my son, the next to the oldest, the oldest one starved to death. I shot my second boy before the oldest died. At the camp where your man found bones I killed all the rest except my youngest son whom I killed near Egg Lake. I shot him through the back of the head. I shot my wife through the breast. The two little girls I knocked on the head with an axe. I choked the baby girl with a line. I know nothing about my brother and mother. My second boy I shot at a camp. A few days after my oldest boy died of starvation I shot my woman, and killed all the rest except my last boy at the same camp the same day. After eating my last boy I came on to Egg Lake, where I stayed a little while; and then came on to St. Albert. My wife said nothing to me when I killed my second boy. I never threatened before to kill and eat my wife. I have told you everything I know. I have done."

Poor Kesekoochin. Who knows where in some



Westlock farmer's field, perhaps beside the creek in his very yard, he had camped when the madness was upon him? What was particularly tragic was that the Oblate Fathers' mission at St. Albert was never more than a day or two's journey away, and there he could have obtained all the food he wanted. At Egg Lake, where the last chapter of the tragedy closed, he was only twenty miles north of the mission, and the little village of Edmonton was only another few miles beyond that.

By that time, revolving around the Rev. George McDougall's relatively new church, a little hamlet of perhaps forty people had come into existence. These people, added to some gold panners, some settlers along the river bank, and the men at the Hudson's Bay Company's fort, brought Edmonton's total population to nearly 150. As an entity separate from a fur trading fort, Edmonton was just starting. As yet, however, while a few settlers squatted along the river, as well as the Metis along the Sturgeon River at St. Albert and a handful of white pioneers who had broken up some tiny fields, no one had really come in to farm Alberta's rich soils. The lands upon which these pioneers had squatted had not even been surveyed.

That situation changed within two or three years, and during 1882 surveyors came out to lay out a few river lots along the Saskatchewan and Sturgeon rivers. Until then the vast forests of the Westlock area and, in fact, all the area north of the mission at St. Albert, swayed in the breezes as for thousands of years they had always done, and yet no one had come to lay axe to them or to lay them waste with fire. That year, however, the first survey line, the line that was to be the white man's opening wedge was slashed out. That year, under the careful supervision of W. Ogilvie the 5th Meridian was chopped out and marked with pits and mounds and iron posts. As straight as a knife's edge it sliced its way from the vicinity of Stony Plain up over the great hills some eight miles to the north and down again to cross the Sturgeon River. From there it continued through the rough glaciated land west of Busby and on through Arvilla and down across the marshy flats and the muskegs of Racine, the low land at the source of the Wabash River, and finally on to the hilltop where for so many years the Hazel Bluff Church has stood. At last, with his axe, the white man had marked out a line in the Westlock forest, a line to indicate that he owned this land, and that in due course his fellows would come to parcel it out and claim it.

For the word had gone out from Ottawa that the land was to be measured, staked and divided up — the forest was to be girdled. The lands lying north of Edmonton and east of the 5th Meridian, even as far

north as Township 57, were to be surveyed into townships, sections and quarter sections.

Since Township 57, Ranges 26 and 27 forms part of the Westlock bailiwick and includes the villages of Busby and Alcomdale, perhaps we should record the fact that they were surveyed in 1882 by W. Ogilvie, G. A. Simpson and C. A. Magrath. At the time, it was felt that there was no need of going farther north with the survey work which divided townships into sections and quarters, and for many years no work was done north of Busby.

Even at that, however, the survey of Township 57 was ahead of its time, because for a decade no one came to claim these lands surrounded by cutlines. For a while longer the forests remained as they had been and soon repaired the damage the surveyors had done by hiding their lines in a new growth of trees. The influx of settlers was still some years away.

In general, no one showed any interest in these lands until in 1891 the Calgary-Edmonton Railway line reached Strathcona. A year or so before that, a few settlers came in to take up land near Edmonton, Stony Plain and Fort Saskatchewan. The move to the area north of Edmonton was assured when Father Morin was charged with the task of bringing about a massive settlement scheme centered on St. Albert. On April 2, 1891, a cavalcade consisting of twelve wagons carrying sixty-five immigrants of all ages reached St. Albert. This venturesome group, of course, was only the advance guard of a much larger migration which moved into the area around Morinville during the next few years. As more came to join Father Morin's colony, it spread, and by 1899 its settlers had taken up most of the land as far north as Busby and Legal. About 1897 a sawmill had been operating in the south-east corner of Township 58, Range 26.

In the settlement of any forested area the sawmills always thrust tentacles out ahead of the settlers. Although the pioneers built their homes of logs, they needed some lumber, and the villages that sprang up in the area needed a great deal of it. Any surplus always found its way to Edmonton. The men who ran the sawmills usually became the first to actually live in a township. The earliest mills in the Westlock region were the one about five miles north of Egg Lake at Casavant; Sutherland's four or five miles north-east of modern Picardville, and Saunderson's, a little closer to that hamlet. The mill operators cut out winter roads to their sites and these gave settlers access to new lands.

By the time the surveyors entered a township to subdivide it, the forest had lost much of its old-time solemnity. Fires had laid much of it low and open spaces, referred to as *brule* or *prairie*, had appeared

in their wake. Probably only half of the green timber of twenty-five years previously remained. Islands of green timber a few miles wide were left between these fire-swept swaths.

What timber had been left by the forest fires was being rapidly devoured by the sawmills. Homesteaders were allowed to cut off crown lands whatever building logs and whatever lumber they needed up to 10,000 board feet. They got their lumber either by cutting logs on their own land and hauling them to the nearest mill, or by cutting off adjacent crown lands. They paid for sawing their lumber by working at the mills or by cutting more logs than they needed for their own use and giving these to the mill owner. Sometimes the mill owner would collect their permits and do the cutting for them making sure that he cut enough. So mills, little and big, sprang up all along the line that divided the primeaval forest from the settlers. Many of these were quite big operations, where the owners had obtained a timber berth and cut away for several winters in succession.

It was regrettable that the beauty and the majesty of the forest should have been destroyed so quickly; regrettable that all the splendid timber went to waste. But what would you have, the beauty of thousands of farms in the rolling countryside and their accompanying richness, or the silent, solemn beauty of the forest inhabited only by a few moose and a handful of black bears?

It was the hope of everyone in Edmonton, in Alberta, and in Ottawa, that this country would be won from the forest and that every quarter would be filed on. The Homestead Act of those days varied from time to time, but generally it provided that the sole head of a family, if he was over eighteen years of age and a British subject, or who signified his intention of becoming a British subject, could file on a quarter section by paying the \$10 fee. After that he had to go out and live on it within six months, otherwise it was subject to cancellation.

In three years this settler could get his patent to the land if he could prove that he had lived on it six months out of each year, and that he had erected on it a habitable house, and that he had cultivated such land as was satisfactory to the Minister of the Interior. Finally, he had to be a British subject by the time he applied for his patent. The son of a settler striking out on his own could file on a quarter within nine miles of that of his father's without having to live on it.

If due to illness or some accident a bona fide settler failed to meet all these qualifications at the end of three years, his time could be extended. If, however, he did not apply for a patent within five years, then his rights to the place were liable to forfeiture, and another settler could apply to have

them cancelled. If the first settler could not show good cause after the Notice of Cancellation had been posted, the second man could file on the place. There was also a provision that, instead of cultivating the land, a man could obtain title to it if he could show that he was running cattle on the land.

Before any more settlers could file on land in the Westlock area, however, more surveying was necessary. So, in 1899, J. K. McLean subdivided Township 58 in Ranges 25 and 26, that is, south of the correction line at Vimy and west of there. In his report he stated that along the north part of the township the timber had been destroyed by fire. Of Township 58-26 he said: "A brule crosses sections 16, 15, 21 and 22. The timber has been of large size. The alluvial soil has been burnt off leaving only the subsoil.

"A growth of large spruce extends across the northeast quarter of Section 20, the north halves of Sections 21 and 22, Sections 27, 28, 32, 33, and the east half of 29. This spruce stands very thickly on the ground, mixed with occasional cottonwood and poplar; it is from ten to thirty inches in diameter. These sections will make a fine timber limit. At the present, owing to the surrounding country being almost entirely burnt, there is great danger that this may be destroyed by fire.

"There has also been some fine spruce on Section 13 and the north part of Section 12; the greater portion of this has been cut for logs. A lot of large spruce on Sections 24, 25, 26, 35, and 36 has been killed by a ground fire, which however has only destroyed the poplar or cottonwood in small areas. The great portion of this dead spruce is still solid and would make good lumber."

During 1901, J. B. Saint Cyr subdivided Township 59, Ranges 25 and 26, that is the area south of Clyde and Westlock, and noted that a prairie covered about a quarter of Township 59-26. This was what came to be called the Little Grand Prairie. Saint Cyr went on to say of Township 59-26:

"Half of this township has been over-run by fire and the timber is dry here and partly fallen, except in the vicinity of the correction line, where spruce, from one to two and a half feet in diameter, is still standing; a very large quantity of this timber would make good construction material. The eastern portions of this township and of the township to the north have been explored by a great many settlers from Morinville and St. Emile, who expect to settle here in the spring. Several have ploughed certain pieces of the prairie.

"I have been told that a site for a chapel has been



chosen and marked on the south slope of the hill in Sections 23 and 24. There is very little muskeg land in this township."

After Saint Cyr's survey, the land immediately south of Westlock lay awaiting the imminent inrush of settlers.

## Oldtimers night

The following poem was composed and recited by Mary Rector at Old Timers' Night in Westlock, October 28th, 1971.

### Are You An Old Timer?

You are gathered here tonight dear friends

For old timers you claim to be,  
So I've some questions I'd like to ask

Please answer truthfully.

Do you remember way back when  
This was a virgin land,  
Did you come here from far away  
With little in your hand.

Did you travel here by wagon train  
Often having to blaze a trail,  
Do you know what it's like to go  
for months  
And not have any mail.

Have you lived in an old sod shanty,  
While trying to work a claim,  
Being frozen to death in winter,  
Flooded out by summer rains.

And have you known the pleasures  
Of travelling by river boat,  
Where music played and dancers  
swayed

As down the river you'd float.

Now I ask you all do you recall  
Cooking bannock or rabbit stew,  
Then slept all night by a campfire  
bright

While mosquitoes chewed upon  
you.

Did you hear every sound from  
your bed on the ground

As you listened for some stealthy  
tread,

As was ready to fight a redman in  
the night

That had come for the top of your  
head

Were you alive in 1905.

When this became a province my  
dears,

And when bugles did blow off to  
war did you go

Though you would have much  
rather stayed here.

Did you clear your land with an  
axe in your hand

And sweat running down your  
brow,

Then to turn the soil did you have  
to toil

With an ox drawn old hand plow.

With shovel and pail and an old  
wooden flail

Did you gather your harvest in,  
Then lifted your eyes to that Man  
in the skies

And thanked Him for filling your  
bin.

These things I have asked if  
they've part of your past

Well stand up and take a big bow,  
For I tell you true, we're sure

proud of you

For you're an old timer and how!

Now I'm not through with the  
rest of you

For old timers you still may be,  
Just give me some time to search  
your mind

The answer we then shall see.

Remember the house you made  
from logs,

'Twas a beauty everyone said.

And who could have known better  
Than the bugs you had in your  
bed.

Have you ever whitewashed those  
log walls?

And thought it was a chore  
With lye and soap and elbow  
grease

Have you scrubbed some old  
board floors?

And as you travelled in search of  
land

From a window did you glimpse a  
light,

And knew that you would be wel-  
comed there

To dine and spend the night.

Have you attended working bees  
Where folks came from miles  
around,

And in no time at all a building  
was raised

That started right down at the  
ground.

Then lanterns were hung from the  
rafters

And to the music of fiddle and  
bow,

Remember how you danced the  
Waltz Quadrille.

And that polka The Heel and Toe?

Were you a teacher way back when  
Schools here first had their start  
Remember the hardships you en-  
dured

As you tried to do your part.

Did you hear those old wolves  
howling

With their nose pointed up at the  
stars,

In the early days when they  
walked on all fours

And didn't travel in motor cars.

Remember when doctors were far  
 away  
 And to a little one you gave life,  
 A kindly neighbor was the first  
 one there  
 In her role as your midwife.  
 Do you remember how your life  
 was changed  
 When they laid the railroad track,  
 Did you welcome the first train  
 coming thru  
 With smoke pouring from out of  
 its stack.  
 Remember when towns sprung up  
 all around  
 With barber shops, elevators and  
 stores,  
 And by a man you were fed with a  
 pigtail on his head  
 Who would also launder your  
 drawers.  
 Have you worked with horses your  
 taxes to pay  
 Building corduroy roads for a few  
 cents a day,  
 Or slaved in a logging camp the  
 whole winter thru  
 And had a little to show for the  
 work you did do.  
 Remember when water you had to  
 haul  
 To feed a steam engine when you  
 threshed in the fall,  
 It had power to spare and was sure  
 full of zest.  
 And played a big part in building  
 the west.  
 Were you ever one of an old  
 threshing crew  
 With hayrack and horses and a  
 good pitchfork too,  
 The work was quite hard but how  
 you did eat,  
 For the cooks in those days just  
 couldn't be beat.  
 You're an old timer I can tell by  
 your smile  
 You've been around for quite a  
 long while,  
 You saw the first planes that flew  
 cross our sky  
 And drove an old Model T going  
 high.

Remember when picture shows  
 first came to town,  
 Actors lips would move but they  
 made not a sound,  
 And whenever a lady was in a bad  
 fix  
 Straight to her rescue came that  
 hero Tom Mix.  
 Now again back in memory I ask  
 you to go.  
 How well do you remember the  
 first radio,  
 Each time something special was  
 to be said  
 Remember how the battery would  
 always go dead.  
 Say there lady get your eyes off the  
 floor  
 I'm not out of questions I've still a  
 few more,  
 To that term old timer you may  
 still qualify  
 Just remember somethings from  
 your days long gone by.  
 Do you remember in the days long  
 ago  
 When to town on a Saturday the  
 family would go,  
 The horses were tied at the old  
 hitching rack.  
 And given some oats you had  
 brought in a sack.  
 Remember how mother shopped  
 from boxes and kegs  
 Then paid for her purchase with  
 butter and eggs,  
 And dad would hustle to the old  
 blacksmith shop  
 With shears to sharpen and stories  
 to swap.  
 And you kids would run and be so  
 gay  
 Remember the games you used to  
 play?  
 Redlight and Tag and Run Sheep  
 Run,  
 And Hit the Can with another one.  
 When winter came with its ice and  
 snow  
 Remember how down to a pond  
 you would go,  
 With a bonfire for heat and blazing  
 cattails for light

You would skate all day long and  
 half of the night.  
 Remember at school how you  
 practiced for days  
 Learning songs and drills, recita-  
 tions and plays,  
 Then finally came that wonderful  
 night, the Christmas Concert  
 And tree with its candles so  
 bright.  
 And remember when a young  
 thing how you used to prance  
 When you stepped high and wide  
 at a country style dance,  
 You really cut a mighty fine caper  
 In the days before flour sacks were  
 made out of paper.  
 When the fellows would swing  
 you right off of your feet  
 98 pounds of Quaker could be  
 seen cross your seat.  
 And when some handsome lad  
 held you close to his chest  
 You would read and agree he was  
 "Cream of the West."  
 When you went to bed and  
 crawled between sheets  
 That man Robin Hood did you  
 ever meet?  
 He was scrubbed and boiled with  
 soap made from lye  
 But continued to smile with his  
 bow raised on high.  
 Remember how faithfully each  
 night you would track  
 A visit to pay the little building out  
 back,  
 With a lantern for warmth and  
 your dog on the floor  
 You read the old Eaton's catalogue  
 for an hour maybe more.  
 Did you have to work in those  
 early days  
 When \$10. a month was all they  
 would pay,  
 You worked long hours from morn  
 to night  
 But you had to eat so gave no  
 thought to strike.  
 Remember when men used to ride  
 the rails  
 And would call at your door hun-  
 gry and pale,



You gave them a handout then  
wood they did chop  
'Til the first whistle blew and on  
that train they'd hop.

And remember the lamp globes  
you had to clean  
Before electricity came on the  
scene,

Then sad irons and lamps you  
stored in a trunk,  
Now folks call them antiques, do  
you call them junk?

Do you wistfully think of the days  
long gone past  
When friendship and marriages  
were both made to last,  
You faced hardships and poverty  
and passed every test  
When hospitality and kindness  
was the code of the west.  
And now that I've turned back the  
pages of time  
What is your answer to that ques-  
tion of mine,

Are you an old timer? Well let me  
see, there's you and you  
And heavens there's me!  
So just hand me my cane, it's been  
a delight  
Being your guest at this banquet  
tonight, .  
Now I'll hobble along to that con-  
traption called car,  
And navigate my way home with-  
out aid of a star.

# Our Districts

## The Busby Story

compiled by the late Wm. E. Munro

submitted by Stanley Wm. Munro

As you know the hamlet of Busby came into being in 1913 when the railway came through. However, to get the early history we must go back to when the district was first settled.

At that time the only summer road was from St. Albert, northwest through the Ray Settlement and on to Riviere Qui Barre, then north-west across the corner of the Alexandra Indian Reserve. This was an old trail that went on to Lac La Nonne and the old Klondike Trail. To get to the Busby District, a trail was cut from the Reserve north by the new settlers. At that time, Riviere Qui Barre was the nearest store and Post Office.

Some of the first homesteaders were: Pickerings, Colins, Owens, Lauries, Grafts, Jerry Smith, John Shoveller. John Shoveller homesteaded in the summer of 1900, just two miles from Busby. He built a log shack and moved in with his English bride. Two girls were born here, Ruth, born in 1901, was the first white child born in the district and May was born in 1903, and is now Mrs. Spargo. (It was from her that I received some of the early history as she had a lot of pictures and records of her mother's dating back to 1900.)

1903 was also a year to be remembered, as it was this year Mr. Shoveller started the first store and Post Office. On March 7, 1903, he was appointed Post Master and had a contract to haul the mail once a week from Riviere Qui Barre to Independence, for the sum of \$80.00 per year. In those days Independence (Now called Busby) served a very large area, some coming as far as 15 miles for their mail and supplies. Mr. Shoveller continued to operate this store and Post Office until the Railway came through. They then moved into Busby and continued operating the Post Office and store for many more years, but that was the last of the Independence Post Office and store.

Some more of the settlers that arrived from 1902



Busby 1959.

to 1905 were the Reece family, George Reed and family, Mr. Carmen, McCaulys, McMillans, Dorsey, Williams, Sincler, Munros and Mr. Elliot and family. These people settled more to the north. They came in with oxen, horses, mules, and also bachelors on foot. Mr. Elliot, with his wife and three boys drove all the way from Butte Montana by team and wagon, arriving in 1903. Mr. Elliot helped organize the first Local Improvement District of which he was the Secretary-Treasurer, and also the first school of which he was one of the trustees. This was the "Advance School," the first school in the Busby District. It was built with logs and the labour was all donated. The school was opened in the spring of 1905 and the first teacher was Miss Kate George. She boarded with the Elliots and walked 1½ miles to school.

Up until this time the only entertainment was house parties but with the opening of the school it was not long before we were having merry old times in the Old Log School House. The Advance Literary Society was formed and social concerts were held every Saturday night throughout the winter months. I remember them appointing two teams to put on these concerts on alternate week-ends. This resulted in a competition to see who could outdo the other team. The talented entertainment these young pioneers came up with was marvellous. I can remember how that old school house used to be crammed to the door, and I am sure that anyone who attended these social evenings could never forget them. (I'd better clarify



here that the Independence School was opened before the Advance School, but it does not come under this story as it is closer to Alcomdale, and is not in the Westlock School Division.)

It was in the year 1904 that my father, John Munro, his wife and seven children, a yoke of oxen and team of horses arrived, and homesteaded two miles north and two miles east of what is now Busby. Looking back, I realize the hardships the pioneers went through. With a great ambition to make a home and fortune out of a \$10.00 homestead they found that dollar bills did not grow on trees, and to get a grub-stake, one had to haul lumber from McGinis and Lyons Mills to Edmonton or freight from Edmonton to Athabasca Landing. Many a trip I made with my Dad on roads that were just winding trails spotted with mud holes. The first two crops my Dad cut with scythe and cradle and threshed with a flail; small crops to be sure, but enough for chicken feed and seed for the next year. O. H. McDonald came in and brought with him a reaper, but as binders were in use by that time it did not get used much.

In 1906 Hough and Graf brought in the first thresher which was a horse power machine. Twelve horses went around in a circle delivering power to the thresher. It was all stack threshing at that time and it would be well on in December when the last homesteader was threshed. Many a cold miserable day I spent on that outfit. In 1909 Noel Hough took over the machine and got a steam engine for power. We were really modern then, however the bands still had to be cut by hand by a couple of boys standing on each side and the bundles fed into the machine by a man standing between the boys. There were no blowers on the machine, just a straw carrier and the straw had to be stacked back by hand.

The McConaghy family came 1905. Mr. McConaghy was a black-smith by trade, therefore was a great asset to the district. Mable McConaghy was a trained nurse and Florence became a school teacher and taught in this district. Mr. Percy May also settled here in 1905 coming from England with a wife, two boys and a daughter. He settled on land that was not yet open for homesteads until the following year. Mrs. May was a talented pianist and as they had a piano there was many a social evening held at their home. Mrs. O. W. Elliot of Westlock will remember these singing sessions as she was their daughter. Some of their close neighbours, also from England were Jack Flemming, Billy Dives, Joe Frankland, and Mr. Seely. Mr. Seely brought a cornet with him and he would often sit out in front of his shack in the evening and play tunes for an hour or so. On a still evening you could hear him for miles and quite often the coyotes which were plentiful at that time would



Busby Sports. Back row, L to R: Charles Clement, Louis Clement, Russell Thompson, Joe Bennet, Alex Sangster, Walter Fitzgerald, Maylin Beach and Albert Stack. Front row: Doug McConaghy, Ronald McConaghy, Gordon Dehnke, Gene Duval, Edgar Junck.

join him and set up a howling chorus on into the night.

To mention another old timer we would have to go back to 1901 when George McMillan came with a survey gang and later homesteaded the quarter he helped to survey. In 1902 he and his brother Jim came in with a yoke of oxen to put up a set of log buildings on their homesteads. A few years later George McMillan married Maggie Lentz, another old timer who still resides in the district. One of the sons still lives on the old homestead, only now it is one of the most up-to-date farms in the district. From the start George McMillan was a community worker, getting roads built, taking part in Social activities, sports, etcetera and later was one of the leaders who helped organize the Busby Agriculture Society. On the third day of January of 1917 Busby was granted a charter to hold agriculture fairs. This charter was held for 12 years at which time Westlock was granted a charter as it was more centrally located to cover a larger area.

In about 1927 the Busby district organized the "Farmers Maple Leaf Band". Money was raised by card parties to buy enough instruments to start the band. The first band leader was Bert Spargo. We built a log Band Hall on the farm of Bert Spargo and practices were held on Saturday nights. At one time we had 22 members. As most of the boys started from scratch, what a noise we used to make. The band leader never pulled his hair, but he must have felt like it many times, however Bert did a wonderful job and in two or three years we were playing for picnics around the country and were holding band concerts. Bert Spargo can be justly proud of the years he spent as the leader of the famous "Maple Leaf Band."

The first M. D. that Busby was in the Hazelwood

M. D. Prior to that they were in an Improvement District. Then the boundaries changed and this put Busby in the Morinville M. D. Later on, when the school boundaries changed, Busby elected to transfer back to the Westlock M. D. and School Division.

## The Clyde Skyscrapers and Their Staffs

The four stately buildings jutting 75 feet or more skyward stand overlooking the Village in orderly succession along the C.N.R. tracks. Their constantly moving tenants are the millions of bushels of wheat, oats, barley and canola which temporarily occupy their various spacious interiors.

The managers of these colossi are men of many talents, and for the most parts are of amiable dispositions. Who but a grain buyer can, year in, year out, grope his way from one dusty bin to another, and back to the drafty weigh-scale, and diplomatically tell the farmer who has just dumped his load of barley that it is #3 feed and not #1 Northern which the farmer anticipated? And there is the matter of testing grain for moisture. During harvesting season there is a continuous stream of eager-eyed farmers or their wives with an assortment of containers of grain to be tested to see if it is dry enough to combine. Happy is the day if the verdict is "dry", but baleful are the glances if it is pronounced "20 damp", which predicts a future succession of runs until, with favorable weather, the minimum of dryness has been achieved. In testing season the elevator manager must "keep his cool" and pray for hot sunny days! Then during hauling periods the elevators receive grain continuously — often beyond the normal business hours.

After the busy harvesting season, the grainmen have some leisure in "after-hours". Invariably they are involved with curling rinks. They become "ice-makers", "ice scrapers", draw committee experts, secretary-treasurers for the association, and of course, good curlers. They are also prime targets to coach and umpire summer sports such as softball and baseball. Harold Kinsman spent all his spare moments umpiring baseball games from Wandering River to Tiger Lily; Bob Tainsh spent hours devising ways and means of collecting curling fees, and Gordon Roy is a ringer for the social committee. But now they will do some reminiscing about the history of their places of business.

The following is a rough sketch from memory of the development of the grain handling facilities in Clyde from the building of the first elevator to the present day.

#1 United Grain Growers Ltd. built the first elevator in the village in 1917 and it went into service that fall.

Robert McKee was the first manager and operated the plant for approximately four years, living in rented accommodations until the final year when he built the residence now occupied by Leon Jalbert. In passing, it should be noted that the U.G.G. was the only company that did not build a dwelling for the agents when the elevator was built. It was not until 1947 that the U.G.G. moved a dwelling in from Volmer for its employee.

Peter Matheson took over from McKee and was in charge until the summer of 1927. A Mr. Allen ran the elevator for a short period until the summer of 1928 when Joe Reid took over and was the agent until his retirement in 1945 at which time Bob. Tainsh took charge and represented the company until his early retirement in April 1969.

About this time there was much consolidating among the grain companies and, although it was seldom used, it went from U.G.G. to Searle to A.P. to Federal and finally to the Wheat Pool and was demolished about 1978.

#2 The Alberta Pacific Grain Co. built in Clyde in 1920 (elevator and dwelling) and the first manager was Arthur Boyce, whose term of service has slipped my mind but he ultimately was close to the top in the Calgary office. Boyce was followed by Marvin Westover, who served quite a few years but again that memory lapse. Mike Scabar took over from Marvin and was followed by Gus Forsen, a local farmer who ran the plant until Gordon Roy took over in 1955 and is presently still in command although it is now a Pool elevator, going from A.P. to Federal to Pool.

#3 The Searle Elevator as it is known to most residents was built by the Northern Grain Co. in 1924.

Mr. Herb Moffat was the first manager. He was followed by Mr. Jorgenson (brother to Bob Jorgenson ex-Social Affairs Minister in the Social Credit Government). Mr. Carter took over management in 1942 but somewhere in this time span there was a Mr. McAlpine.

In 1943 Harry Kinsman (an import from Saskatchewan) took over from Mr. Carter and operated the elevator until 1962 when ill health forced his retirement.

Incidentally Mr. and Mrs. Kinsman still reside in the village.

Mr. Kinsman was followed by Ray Kohlsmith who operated until another change in ownership resulted in his switching to the U.G.G. He is presently employed in Westlock and looking forward to his retirement shortly.

This elevator was subject to the amalgamation fever and went from Northern Grain to Home Grain



to Alberta Pacific to Federal to Alberta Wheat Pool and is presently classified as an annex.

#4 The Alberta Pool elevator was built in 1928 and the first agent was Steve Junk, whose term of service is not actually known. He was followed by Harry East in 1942 who operated the plant until his retirement in 1956. Bert Gower followed and was followed by Noel (Merry Christmas) Dumontier who retired in 1981.

The present manager is Gordon Roy who is in charge of all elevators in the village. He is aided in this heavy responsibility by an assistant, a good looking secretary and a computer. What a change!

Before writing finis to this hopefully correct resume I might add that during the war years, 1939 to 1945 annexes were built at all the elevators. The pool annex was of cribbed construction while the others were what is known as ballon annexes.

Trusting that any errors or omissions are due to lack of definite knowledge and are forgiven.

The following true story will set at rest the impression that the farmer is or was always the loser at the elevator.

This happened in the fall of the year when hours of work were something to dream about.

The agent received a phone call from a local trucker (who has since passed on) that he would be delivering a load of grain but it would be after supper. The agent said O.K. and went home to supper. He returned after supper and at 11 o'clock that night the load had not arrived.

He opened the elevator at the usual time next morning and in a few minutes he saw the trucker drive out of the opposition. Upon asking where the load was that should have been delivered the previous evening, he was sarcastically informed that the trucker could not wait around all day and the load had just been dumped in the opposition elevator. Some days you can't win.

## **The Clyde Community Hall**

### **Don Round**

Through the efforts of a great number of citizens an idea arose to build a community hall. This came about by a desire to have their own hall.

In the past the people of Clyde had been served by privately owned gathering places. One was above the old Clyde Pool Room. This later became living quarters for the proprietor. The large room or hall above L. G. Nelson Hardware, and the second story of the Gosche building were used next. The Gosche Hall took prominence because of the installation of a hardwood floor.

These premises served as a theatre, dance hall, meeting place, and last but not least a medical centre

— on one occasion as a clinic for the removal of tonsils by Dr. Washburn's medical staff. On a certain day in 1930, one hundred children were to have their tonsils removed. Of this number, 86 were operated on — the rest did not show up. The dance hall floor was used as an area for cots and ready room. The stage was the operating room. Everyone in the Village served in some capacity to help with this unique "hospital".

A feature about this hall was the large roll up or down stage curtain. This was partially made of wood slats. When it went down, it was with a bang. There was some difficulty in raising it. The building had been erected in 1912-13 by Knud Olsen who was a resident of the community at that time. It was demolished in the fall of 1938 and spring of 1939.

A Clyde Community Hall meeting held March 28/38 with Rev. Father Sullivan in the Chair and Mrs. Bessie Fricker as Secretary, took place in the old Gosche Hall. It was decided that a new hall would be built in Clyde. Several locations were suggested. One was by the old tying post for horses. This was decided against because it was feared the horses would be left out in the cold. The location decided upon was south of Gosche's Hall where it stands today.

The building committee consisted of Con Johnson, J. Lyal McMillan, H. W. Nickerson, Rev Father Sullivan, H. B. Robinson, Joe Reid and Tom Dagg. It may be noted that Con Johnson served as banker, organizer, and worker.

Father Sullivan united the Community into a solid working force with opening date of November, 1938. During work, Father Sullivan suffered an injury in a rafter collapse in the construction, but was at work as usual the next day!

Mrs. Bessie Fricker, Secretary worked long hours on receipts and donations, and also organizing meals for men from the country working their shifts at the hall. All labor was donated throughout the building of the hall. After the hall was opened, and donated labor exhausted, receipt books showed a payment of 35¢ per hour for work still needed to be done.

Excerpts from a hall meeting on August 29/39:

"Recommendations to the orchestra — That the orchestra at present is not very well balanced — the banjo drowning out the guitar, and the saxophone player drowning out the other instruments. We suggest the saxophone player tone down; another violin player would be more effective than guitar."

One could make a list of hundreds of people who donated time and money to the Hall project. But the greatest accomplishment was the cooperation of the community as a whole . . .

In later years the kitchen was converted to a storage room. An addition was made of a club room and kitchen on the north side of the hall where the Gosche Hall had once stood.

Several people have contributed much time throughout the years on the Hall Board — notably Carmen Breadner, 23 years, and Ken Round 26 years.

Clyde Community Hall stands as a symbol to a

pioneer spirit which is hard to surpass in our modern day and age.

Some prices in 1938-39:

Rent for Hall till 2 a.m. \$5.00

Dance Admission, Gents 50¢, Ladies 25¢

Extra player in orchestra \$3.00

Labor at times, per hour 35¢

Sports Day Admission, adults 25¢

Children under 14 free.



"Aunt Susan's Visit" staged by the Clyde Booster Club, March, 1919.



Doug Parton, Emmett Gosche and Dr. Thurston at Clyde Sports Day.



First airplane to land in a field near Clyde, 1919. The passenger is Marjorie McKee and the pilot is "Wop" May.



Filling a plane with gas at Clyde, Nov. 12, 1930.





Clyde, Alberta.



The Hotel at Clyde, Alberta.



The Hotel at Clyde.

## History of Eastburg

Eastburg was named by A. E. East who had the first post office and store in the Eastburg district, located on Section 22. His daughter, Joyce, walked to Swallowhurst post office near the Wabash and brought the mail for the Eastburg district. Later there was a store at Mrs. Edwards' home where H. Harvey now lives. Mrs. Edwards sold her stock and equipment to Egar Stanton who had a store at Hazel Bluff. MacGregor opened a store at Eastburg about 1913.

The first settler to come and who stayed was Henry Paulson who came in the spring of 1906. John Darling came in the spring and MacGregors came in the fall with Axel Clausen coming two weeks later. Many more settlers came in; some stayed only a short time, some "proved up." In the fall of 1908 the odd numbered sections were opened up and in the spring of 1909 many Dutch settlers came to take up land. Some of these were Garret Hoogers who carried mail and kept the post office and later, when the telephone line was built in 1918, operated the central line for many years, and Herman Hulshof, who plastered the school and made the blackboards. This school, the Cotswold School, was built in 1909 and opened in 1910. One of the pupils who started school there was J. A. MacGregor, who has written many famous books. One of these, "North West of Sixteen" is a very good history of Eastburg.

This was a heavily wooded area and it took much back-breaking work to clear a quarter section; still the oldtimers had time for visiting and pranks on one another. Baseball, basketball and badminton followed later after the hall was built.

We all extend a special tribute to those early homesteaders, every one, even those who didn't "prove up" but sold their homestead rights for twenty-five dollars. They all helped to make Eastburg a wonderful district to live in.

## Eastburg Hall by Dorothy Baker

The first community hall in Eastburg was made of logs and was built in 1921.

About three years later, a new hall of wood frame and drop siding was built by members of the community. Its most interesting feature was a pair of rather ornate pillars at both sides of the stage. These were fashioned by Jim MacGregor. The hall had a trap door in the ceiling through which Santa Claus could make his appearance at Christmas concert time.

Many community events were held here over the years, until 1972, when the hall was sold to Allen Hadley, who used some of the material in building a house.

## The Early History of the Edison Settlement

by Diane (Clark) Otto

In about 1902 there were a few families traveling north from Edmonton to an area called "Little Grande Prairie". Now Little Grande Prairie just happened to be an area about two miles south of Highway 18 and about halfway between the present location of

Clyde corner and Westlock. Among these first few families at Little Grande Prairie were the Joseph and Ferdinand Beauchamp families and the Euclid Leguerrier family.

During this period the region had just been opened for homesteads. In order to file for a homestead the pioneers were required to pay a fee of \$10.00. At that time, however, they did not own the land. Along with the fee they were required to live on the land for at least six months of the year and to clear and break twenty acres of land. After clearing the required amount of land they had to have it inspected by the homestead inspector, if the land met his approval the settler received the land title. Until they had cleared and broken twenty acres of land they could not get title to the land and therefore they did not own it, despite the fact they had paid the \$10.00 fee. The land was cleared by hand with axes so it is no wonder that in the heavily wooded areas it may have taken up to several years to clear enough land to receive the land title.

Shortly after the Beauchamp and Leguerrier families homesteaded, the Edgsons of Thessalon, Ontario, arrived at Little Grande Prairie. The fall of 1902 brought more homesteaders to the area, among these were three young and single Scotsmen, George McLachlan, James Curle, and Duncan Gray. The Edgsons set up a Stopping-place to shelter travelling pioneers who were passing through in search of homesteads. Some of the people that rested at the Edgsons' Stopping-place moved on to settle and form Hazel Bluff, Sunniebank, Riverdale, Linaria and a host of other small communities. In 1903 as the flow of newcomers increased to the Edgson Stopping-place a store operated by Joe Maloney and Buckney Harrison sprang up and also George Dieffenbaugh's blacksmith shop. Not far behind, in 1904, arrived the school and the post office, and later the Methodist church. Those few buildings became known as Edison. The hamlet Edison was named after the Edgson family although there is a difference in spelling. Some people say that the change took place in order to make pronunciation easier for the newcomers, others remember the change as a simple mistake. In any case the Edison post office would receive your mail regardless if the address read 'Edison', 'Edgson', or 'Edson'. This casual handling of the mail may have led to a few problems associated with a distant town to the southwest named Edson. The mail was brought from Egg Lake, which was about twenty miles away, to Edison. The first postmaster at the Edison Post Office in 1904 was Joe Maloney. Jim Knox was known as the mail carrier from Egg Lake.

The William Garrison family arrived from Illinois in 1903 along with several other newcomers.

The Christmas of 1903 was celebrated in the Edgson Stopping-place. When all the furniture was removed, the building became a hall large enough to contain about a hundred people, which was nice because the entire population of Edison numbered less than a hundred. The Christmas concert involved songs, poems, and recitations by the young and old alike. Frank Edgson made the occasion complete by posing as jolly old Santa Claus.

The pioneers seemed famous for dubbing amusing names to certain landmarks and the Edison settlers were no different. For instance, slightly south of the Edison settlement is a hill which in early years was settled mostly by Catholics. Now according to the story, a large gentleman by the name of Bill Mackay who was hardly classified as a religious man called it 'Protestant Hill', the name many old timers still remember it by. Another story also comes to mind concerning the Wabash Creek, which is located beside the Westlock Golf Course. Apparently Joe Maloney, the store owner at Edison, was a fun-loving sort and on this particular occasion Joe Maloney and his buddy Jack File were returning from a delightful evening with George and Jim Mills. On their way home they sang 'The Banks of the Wabash' and then when they came upon a certain stream they just had to name it the Wabash, a name that has stuck with it all these years.

The year 1904 also brought about the forming of the Edison School District No. 1029. The first trustees were Jack Edgson, Harry Lambert and William Garrison. The first teacher in the frame schoolhouse was Miss Mabel Tracy, in 1906. Before the frame schoolhouse was built in 1905 the school classes were held in a tent located across the road from the Post Office. Classes were held three days a week and the teacher was Donald MacGregor, a Presbyterian student minister.

Agriculturally speaking, in 1904 Ferdinand Beauchamp had a small thrasher operated by two horses. A few years later he secured a tempermental gasoline engine which was slightly more efficient, but in 1907 when the first steam-thresher appeared that was the peak of efficiency in those days.

The first Protestant service was held by Reverend William Chegwin, in Edison in 1902. The first Catholic mass which was held in the Little Grande Prairie region was at the home of Joseph Beauchamp, with Father Normandeau of Legal conducting the service. In 1907 the Catholic church was built on 'Protestant Hill' and remained there until it was destroyed by fire in 1921. The year 1909 saw the construction of the first Methodist church in Edison, it was later moved to the hamlet of Westlock somewhere between 1913 and 1914.



The fact that the province of Alberta was formed in 1905 led to the forming of the Local Improvement District in 1906. The first chairman of the Improvement District was Herbert Greenfield.

The arrival of the Clyde railway in 1911 was the first of a series of events that would eventually suffocate the small hamlet of Edison. The next blow to the stability of the Edison settlement occurred around 1911-1912, when the hamlet of Westlock was formed.

### The Settlement at Edison

Two miles south of Highway 18 and about midway between Clyde Corner and Westlock lies a low hill, part of the divide between the Saskatchewan and Pembina Valleys. Over this hill one summer day in 1902 came young Arthur Edgson of Thessalon, Ontario, and knew he had reached his destination. The open country that stretched to the spruce-edged northern horizon must be "Little Grande Prairie".

The region had just been opened for homesteads but near the base of the hill were three small houses where Joseph and Ferdinand Beauchamp and Euclid Leguerrier had already settled their families. Farther south a rough cross marked the site of a future church and later the whole hill was taken by devout **Canadiens**.



Four Edgson Boys from Thessalon, Ont. Standing: Frank and Charlie, Seated: Jack and Arthur.

And that is why Bill Mackay, not at all devout and as noted for his twisted jokes as for his great size, named it "Protestant Hill", the name it still bears.

The first settlers after the Quebec families were Arthur, Jack and Charlie Edgson who took homesteads also for their father and younger brother, Frank. With them came a neighbor named Irwin Armstrong. Late that fall three young Scots, George McLachlan, James Curle and Duncan Gray also found land.

With spring the Prairie got a share of the great flood of immigrants then pouring into Western Canada. From Ontario, from the British Isles and from many American states they came, struggling through roads that worsened as the season advanced, tortured by clouds of mosquitoes, chilled by soaking rains, stuck repeatedly in empty wagons in the black mud-holes of the "Bush Road". Others came more comfortably by the "Landing Trail", leaving that well-worn road about twenty miles east of Edgsons' Stopping-Place.



What is left of the old Joe Maloney's store at Edison Corner. Later used as a Community Hall.

This low log house was the place where new arrivals met the Edgson family and particularly Jack Edgson, official land-guide and self-appointed prophet of the Prairie. This tall, angular man with the tousled hair and the bristling, sandy moustache showed land with all the fervor of a real estate agent.

A group of men would often set off on foot, each with a small packet of lunch tied to his wrist by Jack's thoughtful mother. Hands should be free to push aside the brush. Tea might be carried but sometimes Jack would make it at some settler's shack.

The thick vetch that caught at their ankles was a sign of good soil, said Edgson. He ignored muskeg

or willow brush or fallen timber or burned snags remaining from the forest-fire that had laid open the Prairie. He explained that the light poplar groves were easy to clear and drew attention to the lovely white birch.

Homesteaders were advised to have their mail addressed to "Edgson Settlement". Whether written "Edgson" or "Edson" or "Edison" this enabled any passer-by to bring the mail from Egg Lake, over twenty miles away. It never occurred to Mrs. Edgson that anyone would disapprove of such casual handling of His Majesty's mail but she would have considered him unlikely to stay long anyhow. Good settlers needed faith in each other as well as faith in the country.

Joe Maloney and Buckney Harrison showed their faith by building a store a half mile from the Stopping-Place in July, 1903, when there were barely enough men for a raising, Ontario style; and not enough women for the dance that should have followed. There would be many such raisings in the next few years and it was bad form to miss one since no man could tell when his own need of help would come. Though often portrayed as a rugged individualist, the pioneer did not willingly stand alone in the wilderness.

An occasion for the ready co-operation of the frontier was the first death on the Prairie, that of a

young Scotsman brought to Canada in the later stages of tuberculosis. As roads and weather were at the worst, the relatives decided on temporary interment.

"We can't just put him in the ground," said Jack Edgson to William Garrison. "Can you pray?"

Garrison had recently settled his wife and four children in a tent across the trail from the Stopping-Place. Greyhaired at forty and quiet but firm in speech, he had won more respect than the Edgsons commonly accorded Americans.

"I can pray," he replied briefly. After all, he had been an elder in the church back in Illinois.

"Good, I can sing but I can't pray. There's no preacher nearer than Edmonton but we'll do all right."

Barely a dozen persons were present and they joined feebly as Jack Edgson sang a hymn in a clear, firm baritone. William Garrison said a simple prayer, read some texts and essayed a few words of consolation. Then there was another hymn and the coffin, neatly made of rough lumber by Mr. Edgson and covered with black-dyed cotton by the women was lifted into the wagon and driven away through the dreary rain.

There were many dances in houses large enough to accommodate two or three square-dance sets. Jack and Bill Taylor were fiddlers and Arthur Edgson was caller. Such was the scarcity of women that none



First store at Edison Settlement, run by Joe Maloney, 1904.



were too old or too young to dance. Those good times were remembered but there was a good deal of quarrelling and friendships too easily made were as readily broken. Since everyone had been accepted at his own valuation there were bound to be a number of deflations.

Spring 1904 saw the establishment of Edison Post Office with Joe Maloney as postmaster and Jim Knox as mail-carrier from Egg Lake. Mail came once a week.

Also Edison School District No. 1029 was organized with Jack Edgson, Harry Lambert and William Garrison as the first trustees. But the frame schoolhouse was not built until late the next winter and regular classes did not begin until Miss Mabel Tracy was hired in January, 1906.

During the summer of 1904 Donald MacGregor, Presbyterian student-minister from Knox College, Montreal, undertook to teach the children three days a week in the Garrisons' tent, pitched across the road from the post office. Young Garrisons, Wests, Nelsons and Meyers, two years or more out of school, gladly became his pupils. The young Americans learned that the last letter of the alphabet is "zed", that the Canadians won the War of 1812 and how to write vertical style in fine new copybooks.

The English made the most trips, their elaborate camping outfits making half a load. An American or Canadian carried a grub-box, roll of blankets, axe, tarpaulin, usually a shot-gun. Thus he had little extra weight and brought a full load of "stuff". Two men often travelled together so that the teams could "double up" at mud-holes.

The dry September weather was a relief. But the prairie fire in October frightened everyone though it did little damage. November had an impressive cold spell with the temperature falling well below zero. December was mild and open.

"A Christmas Tree!" said the bachelors, fearing a lonely holiday. They took up a collection and sent a committee to Edmonton to buy toys for the children and treats for everyone. The Stopping-Place with the furniture moved out became a hall big enough to accommodate the whole population — less than a hundred persons.

The Christmas apple and orange were probably the last seen on the Prairie that winter. Maloney and Harrison brought only necessities and such as could withstand cold. The settlers even burned candles because coal oil was hard to transport. They ate salt pork and beans and numbers of rabbits, luckily both plentiful and healthy. When the Edgsons butchered their oxen most people had a few pounds of the tough meat. Tougher yet was the dried moose meat occa-

sionally left at the store by Indians with whom Maloney did a fur trade.

The big, genial young man was fluent in Cree as well as English and French. Born in St. Albert, he was perfectly at home with all kinds of people. Particularly he liked a bit of fun and sought gayer company than that of his quiet partner. On one such occasion he and a bachelor from Illinois named Jack File were singing "The Banks of the Wabash" as they returned from a cheerful evening with the Mills brothers, George and Jim. When they came to a small stream they decided it must be named forthwith. This is why in 1962 the Westlock Golf Course is on the banks of the Wabash. . .

On Sundays the tall, earnest man with the wavy black hair, fine grey eyes and craggy features held services at the Stopping-Place and again at the Beatons' five miles east and north. His congregation included the church-going Altons and Garrisons and such Edgsons as chanced to be at home. Some Wests would come. The Lamberts and the Shutts might walk down the "base-line" from the west. Irwin Armstrong might drop in. But it was not a church-going community, although all but the Zackowski boys and Joe Maloney were Protestants.

Nevertheless the minister was well liked and took part in any and all activities during the summer, including some fine cranberrying expeditions to Knox's Lake. He was chief organizer of the "First Annual Picnic" held on September First in Harry West's grove near the store.

This event was a cross between the American concept of a fourth of July with flags and speeches and dinner and the Highland games visualized by other committee members. The mighty soccer contest so mystified the North Americans that they organized a baseball game on the side. But all appreciated the splendid duck dinner. True, most of the "ducks" knew more of upland than of slough, as mallards were less plentiful than prairie chickens and partridges, neither of which came into season until September First. However, it was correctly reasoned that Jack Edgson, as game warden, did not have to notice the difference, once the birds were on the platters.

The picnic was a regretful farewell to MacGregor who had to return east to college. And his Edison friends had to harvest their few acres of grain. Wheat was frost-bitten but barley and oats gave fine yields. Ferdinand Beauchamp had a small thresher run by two horses on a treadmill and this served for 1904. Later he bought a gasoline engine of uncertain temperament and it was a glad day, probably in 1907, when the first steam-threshers appeared.

The new missionary from Knox College was

Stuart Beatt and he held his first service in the new schoolhouse. It was always gleefully remembered as "getting off to a good start".

The first prayer had been finished when someone shouted:

"Bear! There goes a bear!"

Forthwith the men rushed out of the schoolhouse, the preacher on his new cayuse leading the way across Irwin Armstrong's field. Few had seen the animal and it is well that the weaponless group never did find it.

The women waited without patience for nearly an hour. At last a certain lady is alleged to have said: "Oh, to heck with the men! Let's go on with the service!"

Stuart Beatt also taught school three days a week, helped plan the Second Annual Picnic and generally upheld the Presbyterian cause. His father, P. S. Beatt, came a year or two later with his family and preached in the schoolhouse. But the first Protestant service had been held by the Rev. William Chegwin at the Stopping-Place in 1902. And in 1906 the Methodists returned to the field in the person of the Rev. Robert Telfer, an elderly Scotsman with a large family. The two services in the schoolhouse were about equally patronized by the settlers, a crowd of twenty being most unusual. But the mission boards of the two denominations got together and the Presbyterians withdrew. A Methodist church was built at Edison in 1909.

When the new province of Alberta was formed road-making was one of many pressing needs. The "government road" was begun along the general route of Highway 2 from Morinville to Clyde Corner. Construction made the road impassable and settlers had to go to Edmonton by the Landing Trail which added forty miles to the round trip. Pointing out that the old Bush Road was good except for a few bad mud-holes, William Garrison was able to apply the old formula of self-help and organized a group of men to make the needed repairs. Thus traffic was able to move by that route until the official road was ready.

But such unofficial acts of initiative belonged to the past. Highways would be built by the province and local roads by the new Local Improvement District formed in 1906. Millions of dollars would be spent, not hundreds, and it was not work for amateurs.

Before the new railway appeared a double bereavement struck the Prairie. Mr. Edgson died in January, 1907 after a brief illness. A week later the new frame house, pride of the family, was burned to the ground and Mrs. Edgson was burned so badly she died the next day.

"It's the end of the old times," said William Garrison as he and his family returned from the funeral.

"Not old times," said his wife. "After all, we haven't been here four years yet."

"True. But these are the years we'll remember. Things are changing already."

Edison in 1910 was a hamlet of two stores, a blacksmith's shop, the schoolhouse and the Methodist church. There were three or four dwellings if one counted Wests' and Altons' houses on farms close by. The arrival of the railway at Clyde was the first blow. In 1913 the E. D. and B. C. railway passed three miles west, the post office was moved to the new Westlock townsite and the name was dropped. The Methodist church was moved to Westlock a few years later. The church on the hill remained until 1921 when it was destroyed by fire. For many, many years Edison school remained, an institution dear to old-timers, but it gave way at last to the need for centralization.

Today the speeding travellers do not know Edison Corner. They do not know they are passing through the centre of Little Grande Prairie. No mark remains of the first post office, centre of the first community in Pembina constituency. The only memorials to the pioneers are the modest stones in Dungannon or Hazel Bluff cemeteries but the men who made the country have need of no marker made by their successors.

## The Hazel Bluff District

According to the map in the 1965 Hazel Bluff Book compiled by the Hazel Bluff FWUA, Local 305, this district is roughly bisected east to west by the baseline (now Highway 18) and north to south by the Fifth Meridian, and centred at the corner where Hazel Bluff Church and Centre now stand.

This large area is bounded on the south-west by Eastburg; on the west by Rossington; to the north by Sunniebend; to the east by Swallowhurst and to the southeast by Racine. The Pembina River forms the western boundary in a series of loops and back-washes, while the Wabash Creek forms the general eastern boundary. There are no other lakes or streams of any consequence although there are low-lying areas in this generally rolling land of varying fertility.

In this area there were, at one time or another, ten different federal post offices — five in various parts of Eastburg, three in Hazel Bluff and one each at Rossington and Pembina — the latter being located on the NW¼-24-60-1-W5, near a curve in the Pembina River.

Once there were two local schools, one at Riverdale #1907 located on the NE¼-11-60-1-W5 in 1907



and one at Hazel Bluff #1905 which, after 1916, was located on the SW¼-25-59-1-W5. Archie Brown was the first teacher at Riverdale; Professor W. Haynes was the first at Hazel Bluff.

The small community of Hazel Bluff, which existed before the railway came to Westlock and doomed the existence of this small settlement, was centred just south of the baseline where Egar Stanton had his store, Fletcher Johnston had a blacksmith shop and the second post office was located.

The only church in the whole district that is still standing on its original plot of land is Hazel Bluff United Church which opened in 1909. Across from it, at that time, was located the first post office. A barn was built on church property to house the teams which pulled the wagons to the church, which was a well-used cultural and social centre to the settlers of this predominantly Protestant community.

In the Hazel Bluff School District south of the baseline only the Baker, Cameron, Provost and Stanton names of the original homesteaders remain on quarters of land in the area. Arthur Baker farms NW¼-9-59-1-W5, James and Dorothy Cameron own the NW¼-21-59-1-W5, Art Stanton owns the SE¼-35-59-1-W5 and Gabriel Provost owns the SE¼-28-59-27-W4.

North of the baseline it appears that the Letts and MacDougall families still own the land that their ancestors homesteaded. The rest of the land has passed through several changes although W. Campbell and Manford Reed bought quarters of the school section when it was opened for sale.

The first wave of settlers — the homesteaders — came in the first decade of the 1900's. Ernie (H.E.) Stanton came in 1905 and filed on NE 26-59-1-W5, married and raised a family of seven. His brother, Egar, came in 1908 to homestead SE 35-59-1-W5 where his nephew Art, now lives.

J. R. Provost, in 1908, homesteaded SW 28-59-27-W4, married Ernestine Brochie in 1914 and raised a family of seven. Gabriel is his son.

In 1906, George J. Guest came from Chicago with his two sons, George J. Jr., and Russell to homestead NE 35-59-1-W5. Gordon Guest, cousin to George, homesteaded NW 33-59-29-W4 in 1907, the land on which Hazel Bluff church was located. Gordon's brother, William, came in 1907 to homestead SE 24-60-1-W5. He and his wife, Mabel, raised a family of six girls and 3 boys.

Fred Griswold, brother-in-law to George Guest, homesteaded SE 24-60-1-W5, in 1910 — 11. He and his wife raised four children.

Doris Emogene Wheatley came as a young girl with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wheatley, who filed on NE 33-59-29-W4 in 1907. Emogene

married George Guest II in 1923 and they had three sons: George III (deceased in 1953), Robert Lynn of Rossington, and Theodore Grant of Edmonton.

Robert Cameron and family came from Scotland in 1909-10. His son, James, married Dorothy Glover, daughter of a pioneer, and they live on the NW 21. William Cameron, another son, married Tina MacDougall and homesteaded NW 16-59-27-W4 until his death in a farm accident.

Edward Baker, who came in 1910, filed on NW 9-59-27-W4 and later bought NE 13-59-1-W5 from Streeter Arnett, a homesteader.

The A. Mannens arrived in 1909 from Iowa, U.S.A. They homesteaded NE 24-59-1-W5 and raised a family of three: Edith, who married Earl Violet; Mary, who married Wilfred Smith, a homesteader on NW 36-59-1-W5 and Willis who homesteaded SE 25.

Others who came in this era were the Levi Wilsons, Renton brothers, Mrs. Sandison and Jim; Harry Chattens; the Horrocks family, the Finnegan family and Sandford Sawyer but their story is not recorded in the FWUA book.

North of the highway, Harry Letts opened the first store and post office at Pembina in 1905 — hauling his produce by wagon and team from Edmonton in a round trip of one week. His son, Nelson, lives in the district today.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan MacDougall and family came from Ontario in 1899 and homesteaded two miles north of the baseline in 1905. Their son, Malcolm, served in World War I and was an active community worker after his return from service. His son, John, farms the homestead, the SE¼-13-60-1-W5. Dan's daughters were: Bella (Lyons), Tina (Lyons), Phebe (Lyons) Jennie (Cameron) and Alise (McNiven).

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kinsella moved to the district in 1906 to homestead NE 1-60-1-W5. They had three children: Wray, who was killed in action in World War I; Elizabeth, who married Frank Neilson and raised six children and Ross, whose son Lyle now farms in the Eastburg area.

Mr. Hart was one of the first homesteaders. He filed on the SW 14-60-1-W5 in 1904 — land that is now owned by Len Lardner.

Jim Sears, in 1904, filed on the NE¼-2-60-1-W5. This land came into the possession of William Reid, grandfather of Mary Reed. Manford and Mary moved there in 1918 and in 1949 they built the house in which they live.

Fred Allen filed on NW 16-59-27-W4 in 1914. He and his wife had four children before Fred returned to Nova Scotia with three of the children. Hazel, Mrs Archie Howie, has lived in the district for a number of years.

World War I broke out in 1914 and the energy of the country was directed toward the war effort and enlistment. After the conflict, many of the homesteaders sold their land to other prospective farmers, some of whom were veterans. The list of landowners now included: Hammond, Parton, Horricks, MacIntyre, Glover, MacLellan, Day, Lindboe brothers, Miller, Cross, Raaber, McKibbin, Olson — among others. Increasing mechanization over the next twenty years or so made it possible for one family to operate more land and the trend was for farms to get larger, with fewer people on the land.

In the early 1950's, Calgary Power installed a power grid across the district, road conditions were improved under a booming economy and natural gas lines were installed throughout the area. Probably these factors have considerable bearing on the fact that acreage living has become very popular. Many of these people enjoy country life but work elsewhere — usually in Westlock. In a nine square mile area, there are at present, fifteen acreages varying in size from three to twenty acres.

If those homesteaders of seventy-five years ago could see the district now, they would be amazed at the differences time and hard work have brought about.

## **Early Life in Hazel Bluff Demonstrates Pioneer Spirit**

### **by Emogene Guest**

My father, who was Robert Wheatly, with a couple of cousins from Chicago, and uncles from Ontario, had come up to look over the land in this very new country where no roads were to be found (worthy of note) north of Morinville but the odd trail led somewhere if it was followed far enough. Surveyors cut-lines were used a great deal of the time. The late Percy Andrews, an Englishman who had been out here a year or so, acted as guide and took our men all around this part of the country. At that time, a good many of the settlers “squatted” on the land, as it had not yet been thrown open for homesteading. However, they all picked out quarters on this “base line” which later turned into a road and has since become a very busy Highway 18.

They came back to Chicago, bringing to us (the families) thrilling tales of this big empty land, and of sleeping on the floor at Percy's place with sacks of oats for pillows, and of eating wild cranberry jelly, and of how large and thickly the wild raspberries grew. Nary a word was said about the long trip between Edmonton and this place, nor was mention made of the hordes of mosquitoes that rose up to smite them from every square inch of land!

It was about 1906 that we, the Wheatleys, father,

mother and daughter, left Chicago in the spring with two freight cars of effects, one being our furniture and other household wares, and the other transporting four or five of my father's nice Percheron horses, along with two dogs (which were mine) and not forgetting a cat, Seena, by name.

Landing in what was then Strathcona, and is now Edmonton's South Side, it was April Fools' Day, and it was a standing joke for years, as my father always said he'd been fooled ever since!”

Edmonton at that time was partly a “Tent City”. There was some snow when we arrived, but they laid floors for the tents, which were good sized ones, and moved in some of the things, piling up the surplus which made us quite comfortable. They had managed to find a vacant lot with a barn in back, so that made it nice for the horses too. Water was hauled and delivered around the city and could be bought for twenty-five cents a barrel. We lived in the tents all summer, but when fall came, being afraid the winter might be like the preceding one, which was very cold, we moved into a big house on Isabella Street, just off Namao Avenue, which housed Uncle Will and family as well, each having half of the house. As it turned out, it was a lovely mild winter and we could have stayed in the tents very nicely. I remember us going for a sleigh ride behind one of our teams and it was exciting for me, a youngster, to be riding on river ice in a big sleigh with sleigh-bells jingling on the beautiful harness my father always kept shining clean. This ride was on Christmas Day.

My father worked the horses all winter for the city, as did my husband's father, George Guest, Sr., whose tents were not far from our own. Incidentally, when living in the tents we were directly behind the old Grace Methodist Church, on the east side. I went to Queen's Avenue School and took piano lessons at the old Alberta College.

When spring came, we made a trip out here to Hazel Bluff, to build houses for all of us. It took five days coming out, and from Morinville we angled across by Egg Lake over almost impossible roads, with mosquitoes aplenty for company. When the men were ready to haul the lumber, they found, on reaching the mill, that a fire had taken most of it, so they were only able to bring rough stuff home, and the “House” idea dwindled down to a “shack” on each place, just large enough to house us and some of our things. It was when the building was going on that the “biscuit” episode fits in. My mother had made a big batch of bread before leaving the city, but we had been so long on the way, it had all disappeared into hungry stomachs, so she had to make biscuits every single day on an old make-shift stove. It cooked everything we had to eat, there being no fresh



fruit. Dried apples, peaches, pears, prunes (C.P.R. strawberries), were used by everyone in the country. We had lots of prairie chicken then, too.

On one particular day, our men had gone across the road to help Jack McRae with his house, or some sort of work, I don't remember exactly. Our own shack still lacked the rubberoid on the roof. While they were at Jack's a thunderstorm came up and heavy rain descended on our unprotected roof and, consequently on our unprotected heads inside the shack. Mrs. Will Guest and small son were with us, taking it as well as we did. My mother, who was in the act of rolling out some biscuit dough, had to fly around finding cans or dishes to cover the dough so that it would not be a total loss. Then we lent a hand putting up a very large umbrella used on the democrat, over the bedding on the floor, also covering it with the rubber horse blankets.

While we cowered in this upheaval, the men came across from Jack's and put up the tent inside the shack, so we could sleep that night! I think it must have been that night, that my mother was ready to take off for parts unknown, but having burned all their bridges behind them, there was nothing to go back to, she reasoned, so she stayed with the ship and became one of the pioneers of this country.

Many another woman had the same feelings, but they stayed on. Money was a scarce article for many years but after awhile farms began to emerge from all the wilderness and we all had good times together, even though it was a struggle sometimes owing to lack of roads.

It was probably spring of 1907 when we moved out here, bag and baggage, after disposing of a good part of the furniture, which we could not keep in the shack. A lovely big sideboard with bevelled mirror was one item, and some nice rugs that could not by any means be put on a rough plank floor, were all sold for practically a song.

Coming out with the wagon loads, I remember the sickening sensation my mother had, when, while going through a bumpy slough, a wooden barrel containing her cut glass and china, toppled from the load and landed on a submerged stump, opening up the barrel, very naturally breaking a good deal of the contents. It was all very tiring and rain was falling from a very grey sky, near the end of the day. As we approached a point about two miles south of Harvey Patterson's farm, we became lost, after leaving Murray's place. Intending to make it to George Mills' place for the night (Patterson's farm) we did not arrive there because we had gone in a circle and landed back at Murray's. They were very kind English people, mother and sons, who took us all in, giving us dry clothes and a place to sleep.

Next morning we made Mills' for dinner, but I don't think we got all the way home that day, a distance of three and a half miles. It took quite a while crossing the Wabash. There was, of course, no bridge, but a little south of Archie Ashby's present house, a very crude "bridge" had been made of poles, the whole thing covered with brush and hay. This was the crossing, and while the Wabash is not wide at any point, it seemed plenty wide when you were crossing in a wagon on those poles, and the whole thing swinging like a pendulum! We finally did arrive at our tar-papered shack and were very thankful the journey was at an end.

My husband's father, who was George Guest Sr., and who mothered his children too, (owing to a sad circumstance), had taken up a quarter, a mile west of the meridian, and had built a small log shack, as well as one of lumber, which was not very tight, allowing snow to blow through and making it very uncomfortable for all of them. Chickens they had brought, had "a hard go of it" too. In the summer it was better, as the boys could go to the Pembina and catch fish to eat. There were always lots of good Prairie Chickens, that we all liked so much. They later built a house on the south end of their place, it being higher ground.

After a while, Egar Stanton built a store on the next quarter south, which is Art Stanton's now. There was usually some activity around after that. Then, too, when people came for some groceries, or coal oil, or candles, they could get any mail that had come to the small Hazel Bluff Post Office, that was managed by my husband and his Dad. One of the first winters, he and his brother, Russell, lived with the Leake's and worked for their board, while their Dad worked his team on the freight haul from Edmonton to the old Grand Trunk Railway up Edson way. He remembers an exciting day on the Wabash, at Leake's place, when the bull got its nose stuck in a jam pail and went charging about, petrifying them all until Mr. Leake could lay hands on a pitchfork! But to get back to the Hazel Bluff Post Office, we still have it here on our farm, across from the old homestead.

A good many of the people who squatted on places before the land was opened up for homesteads, were told to "get off" but some had already sent in applications for homestead rights, after hearing that the land had been thrown open for homesteading. Our men and several of the newcomers, had to make a trip to Edmonton and stand in line all night outside the land office in order to file on the land they had chosen. When my father gave the number and location of his land, they said he was a "squatter" and would have to get off, but when he informed them about the application he had sent in, they delved around and came up with it, so everything was fine.



We were not squatters any more, but 'bona fide' settlers!

In a short time, with our "homey" things to brighten it up, our shack became home, and we began to live again! We had a very nice grove of poplars in front of our shack, which was set back from the road, and my Dad kept all the underbrush and grass cut out. Many an ice-cream social was held there. We always had lovely sweet peas and other flowers on the east side of the shack.

People kept coming into the country all the time, and I can remember when the Jorgensons (the Hon. Bob's family) came, and stopped in at our place on the way to their homestead. They had come from Minnesota. Later, their home was one of the places where services were held before the church was founded. Some of the other homes that services were held at were the Leake's, Evans, and Mrs. Grant's. These three homes were on the Wabash, south of what is now Highway 18. The services, which were Methodist, were conducted by Mr. Robert Telfer, who had been sent out from London, England, as a missionary to this country, and had settled, with his large family, at Belvedere, near Lac La Nonne. He rode through this vast country on horseback and held services at these homes. Although the people were by no means all Methodists, they came to the services and helped in the work of the church, when it was built. They were "united" in that way long before the Methodists and Presbyterians united years later. Mr. and Mrs. Telfer were a wonderful "old country" couple, as was their family of six sons and two daughters. They all mixed in so well with the settlers here. At Belvedere, they had the misfortune to lose their house and contents by fire. In speaking of the catastrophe, in later years, they were able to laugh at some of the foolish things they did trying to save some of the bedding and things from upstairs. One of them struggled down the stairs with a bulky feather-bed while another threw some crockery out of the window, instead of reversing the action! We, as children, used to have some good times together, with Olive Allen, Ione Guest, the Telfer girls and others. Jean Telfer was our teacher at Riverdale School, which her father was instrumental in starting, along with the help of Ben Allen, Mr. MacDougall, William Brooks, Bill Norris, Mr. Hart, Percy Andrews, Abe Coles and many more. Mr. Telfer had moved his family over into our settlement, to his homestead on the meridian, two miles north of the church, which was as yet only a plan in his mind. In the spring of 1909 his plan began to take shape and lumber hauling was begun, Nelson Clarke being one of the first to bring a load to the spot. Mr. Leake was the foreman, and my husband remembers how he and

his brother, just children, labored in the hot sun, digging holes for the blocks and timbers.

While the church building was going on, a Ladies' Aid was organized at our home in the spring of that year, my mother being elected President, with Mrs. Clyde Hall as Secretary. Mother held that position for several years, I think. It is interesting and laughable to read some of the minutes of those meetings, but everyone was doing their best to organize a congregation for the permanent church, and what church could endure without the Ladies' Aid?

Sunday was Sunday in those days and was observed as such in the strictest manner. I can remember one Sunday in November when the church service had been held at Evans' place. Nice ice had formed over the Wabash and was an exciting spectacle, though I had been told that even sliding on the ice was Taboo on Sunday. However, on the way home, some of us just had to go down on that ice and I was the one who went too near to a big crack in the ice, that very naturally gave way under me, dumping me into the water. Part of my Sunday-best was a wide brimmed, brown beaver hat with pale blue satin band and "streamers" down the back, which had been brought from the "windy city" and was the height of small girl fashion. It of course, dipped into the water and sagged unbecomingly, making me look like a drowned rat or beaver. To keep me from catching pneumonia, they ran me all the way back to Evans', where I was supplied with dry clothing, much too large for me, my age being about 10 or 11. Which all boils down to the fact that "If I had listened to what Mama said" I would not have been in such a predicament.

In the midst of the building and exciting preparations for the opening of the church, tragedy stalked among us. Mr. Telfer did not see the church finished, or preach to us from its pulpit, as a sickness overtook him and he passed on to his reward. He was the first person to be buried in the cemetery. His son, Douglas took his father's place and carried on.

The church was finished enough to be opened the first Sunday in August, 1909, and much inspiration was gained therein by everyone who attended. A Karn organ was bought with donations, and I was a little less than twelve, I believe, when I became organist at the opening. We had a wonderful choir, made up of older and younger ones who sang. The Telfer family was very musical and our leader, Bob, was an excellent violinist, as well as having a very fine voice. Never having played an organ before, I had lots of fun at first, but I soon learned to pick my stops and sustain the notes one into the other. It was a lovely small organ, and the offertories, anthems and



solo accompaniments sounded almost as nice as they would on a big organ.

From then on, the church was the centre of social life in the Hazel Bluff community. Ice cream socials, where ice cream and cake was ten cents a dish; suppers and concerts were all held there, with Christmas Concerts being very special. We were "angels", dressed in white cheesecloth gowns. This material was very fine in those days, and only cost a few cents. These would be trimmed with tree-tinsel which glittered like gold, adding to the "Other-World-ness" of it all. Along with this would be cardboard crowns, and wands, and probably 'wings' with which to make them really stand out, making it all very unreal but very fascinating. Sunday School was held every Sunday and many of us are still around, who attended. My organ playing continued for six or seven years, until we moved to the new town of Westlock, where I again played at church services.

It rained a great deal in those days. Roads were a real drawback, but people came to church, regardless of that, in all sorts of rigs. The Telfers had a team of oxen and I remember someone's straw hat finding its way into the inner regions of one of them, and a much-prized old Bible of Mrs. Telfer's, which was left in the wagon, lost the Psalms to one of them while they were tied to the wagon to feed during service.

The matter of gaining knowledge by way of an education, had its drawbacks too. I had to walk three and a half miles to any one of three schools, Riverdale, Hazel Bluff or Swallowhurst, which was a Post Office on the Dick Adkins Farm that was his Dad's place. On each road, somewhere, there would be an almost impossible spot to cope with.

One year a stray, nondescript horse wandered to our place (from where, we never could find out) and I undertook to ride her to school at Riverdale. Though I wasn't a horsewoman, and would not have ridden her had she been more "lifey", I could have wished at times for a little more life, she was so slow! No matter how I tried, I couldn't produce a suspicion of speed in her. I remember one day when coming home by Mr. Brook's place, I came upon a very bad hole, mud and water, that was impossible to go around. I called the mare "Dreamy", and no doubt she was dreaming of the colt that was coming, but I wouldn't know that then. At any rate, I headed her across this morass and she was so slow about lifting her feet, she sat down in it. Naturally, I slid off into the muck, but Everett Bell, who rode with me on his buckskin, "Tony", let me ride his horse, while he labored at pulling my mare out of there and riding her the rest of the way home. Once, I tied her to a fence so that I

would not be late for school. Her colt arrived in due time, and it was exactly opposite in temperament. I called it "Ginger" because it had more life than she ever thought of!

## Hazel Bluff Hall

As one approaches the summit of the hill, five miles west of Westlock, to the left is located Hazel Bluff Center, for a long time now the scene of many gatherings.

This building is the former Hazel Bluff Hall which in recent years has been improved to become a very useful facility.

The hall was originally built in the 1930's as a result of a loan from Perry Prosser and under the sponsorship of Hazel Bluff U F A local No. 483. In 1938 the membership consisted of J. Cameron, A. Howie, E. Violet, Mrs. W. Lyons, J.R. Provost, Albert Lyons Sr. J. Horricks, M. Reid, W.H. Baker, A. MacIntyre, Wm. Glover and L. H. Stanton.

By 1942, Wm. Glover and L.H. Stanton had left the district but new members included C. Baker, S. Olsen, Geo. Lyons, Robert Scott, Lawrence Campbell, Wat Stanton, E. Renton and Art Stanton. The membership fee was one dollar.

New members in 1943 were H. Drummond, A. Baker and W. Bibby. The 1940 executive consisted of J. Cameron, president; W. H. Baker, secretary and A. Howie vice president.

The hall committee was having a difficult time in meeting expenses in those years so legal advice was sought. R. Gardam, Westlock lawyer, advised them that the U F A Hazel Bluff Branch could do as they liked with the building and a motion was made to sell the hall by tender.

By January 3, 1941 no replies had been received on the tender to buy, so a committee was struck to "see what could be done.

At the March 24, 1941 meeting a motion was made by W. H. Baker that a public meeting be held to see if the debts could be paid off and the hall become a community hall.

This special meeting was called on June 23, 1941. A motion was moved by Mrs. Bella Lyons, seconded by Baker and carried to the effect that the UFA turn the hall over to the community which would sell shares to pay off the outstanding debts of \$175.00 to Mr. Prosser, \$12.00 to Mr. Herb Cross and \$41.00 to George Renton plus the cost of transfer of title. It was also carried that the U F W A have free use of the hall for one day a year on a motion by Mrs. Bella Lyons and Mrs. Earl Violet.

As a result of an active campaign to sell shares, by 1943 the cash book showed cash in the bank

\$20.28 and receipts from sale of memberships \$14.00.

Following World War II and the return of those who had served in the armed forces, the hall became a popular Friday night dance center with Joe Johnson usually providing the music. The dance committee of S. Olsen, J. Killbachs and Don Bakers served many a hot dog, sandwich and coffee at midnight lunches during those times but the profit realized was spent in putting down a fine maple floor, adding a kitchen and a stage to the back of the hall.

In recent times, partly as a result of grants from the Regional Recreation board, the hall has been greatly improved. A modern kitchen was built on the west side; the former kitchen became the washroom area; the walls and ceiling were replaced and re-finished. An extension to the east provided more floor space. New chairs and tables were purchased, gas heating and electric power were installed and a new water pressure system and well were provided. The exterior was stuccoed and finished attractively.

Today it is a busy place especially during summer weekends for barbecues and family reunions or other large gatherings. Christmas season is also especially busy with parties, concerts, etc. It is an active community centre for mixed bridal showers, weddings and funeral gatherings.

Local support of the center has always been very good. At the present time the executive consists of President Alan Babiak, Secretary Mrs. Maureen (Robert) Olsen and active workers Carol (Lester) Smith and Norman Olsen.

## **Hazel Bluff Memories**

From a report given at the Annual Reunion of the Westlock and District Old-Timers' Association, Nov. 23, 1961, revised and edited by Dorothy Baker.

The Hazel Bluff District is one of the oldest communities in the Westlock area, the first settlers having arrived as early as 1903. In that year William Clarke and son Alfred, and Quinn Golder, were some of the very first people to "look around."

In 1904 Mr. Clarke moved in, also Mr. Hart. Percy Andrews was a land guide. He had two sisters, Florence and Daisy, living with him. Ted Wilson also had two sisters with him. There were Tom and Harry Letts, George and Jim Mills, William Ferguson with his mother and his sister, (Mrs. Grant); Percy Cross and others.

1905 brought Mrs. Tom Letts, Mrs. Harry Letts and family (Nelson being one year old), Mrs. Clarke and family, Mrs. Hart and family, Mr. and Mrs. Golder with one-year-old Tommy. Others who came that year were Mr. and Mrs. Dan MacDougall and family, George Wood, Ed Baker, Mr. Leake, Ben

Allen and Charlie Kinsella. Among many others were William Brooks, Herbert Hart, Ernie Hunt and George Crane.

In December, 1905, Harry Letts opened the first store and Post Office at Pembina, on the riverside near the present farm of his son Nelson. He hauled his supplies from Edmonton with a team, the round trip taking nearly a week because of very bad roads. That summer a survey party moved onto the Percy Cross place, across from John MacDougall's present farm. They surveyed from Dick Adkin's place to what is now Rossington.

Also in 1905, the first Sunday School was held in the Hart home (the Lardner place today) and conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Clarke. This was Methodist. Anglican services were conducted by Mr. Cheeny, who rode horseback from Gibbons, near Edmonton, to hold a service every two weeks. Mr. James H. Beatt held Presbyterian service every two weeks in Percy Andrews' house. Methodist church services were held by Mr. Robert Telfer, missionary from England, in several homes in the district; Leake's, Evan's, Jorgenson's, Percy Andrews' and others.

On October 1, 1906, the first school was opened in Herb Hart's house, with Archie Brown as teacher and fifteen pupils attending. The school board consisted of William Clarke, chairman, Ben Allen secretary-treasurer, and Mr. Hart and Mr. MacDougall as trustees. In this year also the first Christmas concert was held in Percy Andrews' home, where Michaels now live.

Settlers flocked in and Percy, as land guide, helped settle them on the land of their choice. Some of these were Ernie Stanton, Bert Lyons, the Renton brothers, the Daly brothers, Mr. John Adkins and family, Fred Garbie and family, Ben Miller and family, Andy Smith and Arthur and Edwin Stanley.

Marjorie Stanton (now Mrs. Reg Little of Ladysmith, B.C.), and Dick Adkins were the first babies born to new settlers here.

In the spring of 1907, the first wedding took place when George Mills married Flo Andrews. Mr. Cheeny, the Anglican minister, performed the ceremony with Mr. Telfer, Methodist, in attendance.

That same year, the new school, called Riverdale because of its proximity to the Pembina River, was built by the Adkins brothers and painted by Mr. Jorgenson and sons. It opened in the fall of that year. An early highlight was a banquet held in the school-house and served by the local housewives to show appreciation for the Government's efforts and to honour the M.L.A., Mr. McKenny and the road foreman, Mr. Gibson. An amusing incident connected with this affair was brought about by a "mistake." It seems the ladies wished to impress the



honoured guest with the very best they could produce in the way of good dishes, cutlery, etc., so they set a special table. Somewhere in the hubbub of getting people seated, they found the honoured guests seated at the main table amidst a motley collection of chipped and cracked pottery. It was too late for the mortified ladies to do anything about the situation but the great men suffered no harm!

Among those who came to the district in 1907 were William Guest, George Guest, Gordon Guest and his family, Robert Wheatley, Bill Norris and the rest of the Jorgensons, all shown land by Percy Andrews. They all "squatted" on odd-numbered quarters and in September, 1908, these quarters were thrown open for homesteading. Many of the men went to Edmonton, Mr. Wheatley taking a load of them, where they stood in line all night or camped beside the Land Titles Office in order to be on deck first thing next day to file on the land they wanted. Some of these were Archie Brown, George Guest, Bill Guest, Robert Wheatley and Bill Norris.

Hazel Bluff School, built of logs, was opened in 1908 at a location on the McFate place, two miles south of Hazel Bluff Church. The first teacher, Professor H. Haynes from the U.S.A., was very tall and found the low building rather frustrating when pupils ducked under the low sides to escape punishment. A new school was opened in a new location in 1916.

The first store and post office at Hazel Bluff was across from the present church with W. Weidrick as proprietor. Alf Adkins had the first store and post office between Hazel Bluff and the future site of Westlock. The post office, called Swallowhurst, was located where Dick Adkins farm is today.

About the first crop to be threshed was Ern Stanton's; it was threshed by a small horse-operated machine. The very first thresher to come into the district was one from Pickardville, owned by Mr. Racine.

On Wilfred Smith's place, one mile west of the church, was the first blacksmith shop which was run by Wilfred. Also on his place was a strip of land next to the baseline; brushed by hand and broken with a ten-horse outfit. In 1909-1910, the first power breaking was done on the farm of Bill Brooks, by an operator who came from Clyde.

Bob Wheatley ran the first ferry across the Pembina River at Rossington, a little north of the present bridge. He stayed in a small shack near the ferry and his wife took him food by horse and democrat during the summer when the ferry was in operation.

George Guest worked for Ern Stanton for a while and also for Mr. C. Leake. George, with the help of his younger brother, Russell, built a small log cabin on his father's farm, one mile west of the church. Here, George began his life's work at age twelve,

with the purchase of a forge, blower, anvil, vise, tongs and a hundred pounds of blacksmith coal. He read "Popular Mechanics" into the small hours of the morning, teaching himself to be a mechanic, which has certainly paid off through many years.

There were a few "characters" around with their own particular quirks, such as the young man who announced his coming outside your door by blowing his nose like a trumpet; the cave-like garb of the lady in the gunny sacks, and the old gent who for years used the same tooth pick — made it himself!

There had been severe times when many of the women were ready to "chuck" it all and leave, but lack of funds kept them here. It was not too long before the government began building roads and the old baseline was one of these. The times of isolation and hardship were coming to an end for those who elected to stay and see it through.

A modern contraption called the automobile has changed peoples concepts of good times. We travel miles nowadays for something we call a good time. We enjoy our cars and hard-top highways but it might be nice to be transported back to those old days for just a while, so that we could get our priorities straight!

## **Memories of Pibroch**

**written by Florence E. Wass**

I was born and brought up in England. My father C. J. Brown, came to Canada in 1905. My mother Mrs. Brown, my sister, later Mrs. Frank Jackson, my brother, Charles Kingsley Brown and myself, Florence E. Brown arrived in Edmonton in July 1907, where we lived for four years. My sister Lizzie married Frank Jackson, who already had a homestead in the Pibroch district. That is before Pibroch got its name. There is some difference of opinion as to how the name Pibroch was chosen. This is the story told to me years ago by Jim McIntosh, who homesteaded half a mile south of us. "A meeting was held to chose a name. During the discussion the cat came in making an awful noise, so one of the Scotch boys said 'Call it Pibroch (Bagpipes) after the cat' so after some discussion it was decided to call the district Pibroch".

However, to proceed with homesteads, Frank and Lizzie Jackson moved on to their homestead. Then my father and mother and brother Kingsley took up homesteads close by. Their house being half a mile from Jacksons! My father disliked the life, so never lived on his homestead, and never proved it up. He was Homestead Inspector, and away from home a great deal, so mother lived with Kingsley. When father died in 1912 mother let his homestead go, and it was proved up by Jock McIntosh, Jim's brother. He





Birthday Party for Fred Gamble, Sr. Front row, L to R: Gwen Gamble, Mary Armstrong, ?, Donnie Gamble, Jimmy Gamble. Back row: Mrs. G. Storm, Lizzie Gamble, Rose Short, Mary Gamble, Hilda Gamble, Mrs. Ernest Gamble, Mrs. Bert Gamble, Mrs. Wesley Dean, Mrs. Short with Hazel Short, Fred Gamble Sr., Mrs. E. G. Gamble.

never married. Jim made the supreme sacrifice in the first World War.

The Jacksons had six children, of whom only two survived; Gladys, Mrs. Tom Spargo, who lives in Vancouver, and Norman, the youngest, who lives in Calgary.

My brother Kingsley lived on the farm until mother died, and then returned to England. He married late in life and had no children. He died some years ago.

In 1909 I married Earl Wesley Dean, who was employed at the Edmonton Power Plant. In 1910 he filed on the North West of 7 Township 61 Range 26 West of the Fourth Meridian, but went to live on it in 1911. There was a squared log, little one room house on the property, built by the former homesteader, who had abandoned it. By paying a small sum it became our home for the time being. We had four sons; Charles, the eldest, who married Winnifred Davies and lived at Lone Pine, Alberta, until his death in March 1971. Winnifred and their sons still live at Lone Pine. Alfred, who lives with me at Cobble Hill, B.C. Stanley, who married Rose Short and lives at Hay River, North West Territories, and Kingsley, who married Helen MacDonald and lives in Edmonton. Things went fairly well, ups and downs, of course. We worked making whatever improvements possible. When the money ran out Wes went to Edmonton and worked at whatever he could find, and he always found something. We were able to prove up and the quarter section became ours.

In 1914 war broke out and Wes enlisted in the 51st Battalion. The children, Charles, Alfred and I stayed on the farm. It was a bit lonely at times. Stanley was born on the farm when his father was on the high seas on his way to France.

In the early days my brother Kingsley bought a



Mary Gamble's Christening, 1914. Front row, L to R: Charles Dean, Gladys Jackson, Bert Jackson, Bill Gamble, Ernie Gamble. Second row: Florence Dean, Agnes Miller, Mrs. Ernie Gamble holding Mary, Mrs. Frank Jackson holding Winnie, Mrs. C. J. Brown with grandson Alfred Dean, Mrs. John Roddick, Jean Roddick (later Mrs. Alex Mitchell). Back row: Fred Gamble, Jim Irvine, Tom Robinson, Ernie Gamble, Charles Gamble, Fred Gamble Sr., Jim McIntosh, Wesley Dean, Jim Rimmer, Plen Proudlove, Frank Jackson.

team of oxen. They were much better for pulling stumps and breaking new land. Their names were Chacha and Hippa. They knew every mud hole and would put their tails in the nice wet mud and wrap them around your neck, or lay them across your face. Later we had horses.

One of the times I really enjoyed was berry picking. Mr. Short would take a wagon load to a huge patch of raspberries, close to the Pembina River, and we picked pails full. We all brought lunch and had a wonderful picnic. Then we would go to Poplar Knoll to pick blueberries, all we could possibly use. There were high-bush cranberries, low-bush cranberries, moose berries and other berries. There were plenty of partridges; later on prairie chickens; the odd moose and deer, and fish in the Pembina River. The land was very fertile so we always had lots of vegetables for the growing.

Our social life consisted of concerts, card parties, dances and surprise parties. At first the church service was held in Mr. and Mrs. Nettleton's house, across the road from where the Anglican church was. Bill Hudson gave the land to build the church and a cemetery. The first clergyman was Mr. Trench, who was a great help to the settlers in many ways.

Wes passed away on November 2nd, 1942. Some time after I married George H. Wass, who homesteaded at Linaria.

When we first homesteaded we were forty miles from the railroad, but the C.N.R. came to Clyde and we were then only eighteen miles. Then the E.D. and B.C. railroad came within a half mile of our home. It was sweet music to hear the whistle of a train.



Wes came home from the war badly wounded, after spending time in the hospital in England. He spent some time in the Veterans' Hospital in Edmonton. We tried to farm for a time, but with three boys it proved too much. We returned to Edmonton, where Wes went into Civil Service. Kingsley, our youngest boy, was born in Edmonton in 1918. He still resides there.

I was the first lady trustee for the Pibroch School.

## Pibroch Story

The Question has often been asked how Pibroch got its name? It has been blamed on a tune on the Bagpipes — after Tom Mitchell's cat and several other things but — The first homesteaders came to the Pibroch district about 1906. Some of them were the Calderwoods, John, Aaron and Grandpa Roddick, and Hudson and Hall. Aaron Roddick was our first school teacher, postmaster and Secretary of the Local Improvement District.

Between 1906 and 1911 Tom and Alex Mitchell took up homesteads. Also Jim and Alex Irvine, Jim and Jock McIntosh, The Browns, Deans, Thatchuck family, Fred, Ernest and Charles Gamble, Jim, Jack, Dave and Tom Thomson, Raines family, Clesson family, Hough family, Sheppy brothers, John, Leslie and Ernest and Proudlove family, mentioning a few that came to mind. By 1912 there was a rumor of a railroad coming through this part of the country, and as these surveys were being run the balance of the land soon was all homesteaded. In fact by 1913 there was a log shack on almost every quarter section.

Before 1911 we got our mail at Edison (3 miles east of Westlock) at Paddy Armstrong's store. Our nearest railroad was Morinville, and a stage coach was operated from Morinville to Edison on the days the trains happened to run. The roads were good where the land was high, in other places it was mudholes and corduroy. The stage driver had three fares — sit and ride, get out and walk — or get out and push.

About this time a need for a Post Office of our own was mooted, and an application was sent to Ottawa asking for a Post Office. A reply from Ottawa asked us to submit three names. The names suggested were — Learig, Halltown and Pibroch. Aaron Roddick suggested Pibroch as a name as he claimed the majority of the settlers were Scotch or of Scottish descent. The Roddicks were of Scottish descent, they came from Ontario. The Calderwoods were good enough to be Scotch — they came from Ireland. Hudson and Hall were almost Scotch — they came from England. The Mitchells, McIntoshs', Irvines, Thomsons, Millars, McPherson and Yule were all Scotch and still had heather growing between their

toes. The authorities at Ottawa selected the name Pibroch for our new Post Office. It was then located a quarter of a mile east of the cemetery (on highway 44) on Aaron Roddick's homestead. Aaron was installed as our first postmaster. When the E. D. & B. C. railroad arrived at Pibroch the station, at that time, was called "Debney". After the post office was moved to what is now the Hamlet of Pibroch, a request was sent to the railway authorities to change the name of the station to "Pibroch".

When the Local Improvement District was formed, with Aaron Roddick as Secretary, taxes on the average quarter was about \$7.00. Tom Garde was the second Secretary of the Local Improvement District, and his office was where he homesteaded, which is now the property of John Chesla, (S.E. 3-61-26-W4). After a few years when the Municipal District came into being, the Municipal Office was built in Pibroch, where Mr. Garde moved and built a house. He was Postmaster, Municipal Secretary and Police Magistrate. Court was held in the Municipal Office where Tom dispensed justice with fairness and generosity. During the 1920's Pibroch had the makings of a nice little town. Over the years it had two garages and an Implement Agency, three stores, a cafe, a blacksmith shop, a butcher shop and a hotel. During homesteading days most of the boys went to Edmonton in the spring to look for work, returning again in the fall. Some of them walked the whole way without the publicity attached to the present day "hike". Those who worked in the winter either went to the lumber camps or coal mines. To acquire a homestead you bet the Canadian Government \$10.00 that you would reside on the said quarter for six months each year for three years, build a habitable house, break about thirty acres of land and stay out of Ponoka. After you received your title deed to the land and wished to sell, you could possibly receive \$1000.00 for a quarter. That is if you managed to find anyone with \$1000.00. For around \$1200.00 dollars it was possible to acquire enough implements to start farming. This included a team of oxen, but to handle oxen you had to have lots of patience and a good vocabulary. Most of the land was cleared by a sharp axe, a strong back and a good grubstake. (Brush cutters and pilers were not yet invented). Clearing and breaking ten acres was a real summers work. (Breaking was done with oxen or horses, and the old "Frost and Wood" breaking plow with a wooden beam was a favorite implement). Any crops grown were stacked and threshed in the late fall or early winter. The threshing outfit consisted of a 22 inch separator, and moved from one farm to another by horses or oxen.

The population of Pibroch District was now

growing, and it was decided to build a hall for meetings, dances and social affairs. Dances started about eight or nine o'clock and lasted until daylight. There were no roads, only trails through the bush, and going home in the dark, especially after a dance, one might get stuck in a mud hole.

The original log building built in the winter of 1914-1915 was called "Pibroch Farmers Hall" and was the only hall for miles around, and was used by anyone or any organization requiring its use. It was also the first school in Pibroch. It is now located in the Westlock Exhibition Grounds as a museum.

## The History of Pickardville

by Lena Morin (1968)

First known as the "Great Burn Out" by many unsettled settlers. It was not until 1904 that the hamlet got its name. Settlers travelled many miles in wagons driven by oxen and horses from Edmonton and Morinville and many other points, to our area looking forward to taking up homesteads. Mr. Wm. Sutherland had already come to the area by 1901. His son Clarence still resides on his father's farm. Mr. McMillan then came in 1902, his son Loyd is still on his father's farm. From 1901-1906 many more pioneers came to homestead in the area such as the Pickards, McLaughlins, Tallys, Phillips, Maxwells, Powells Franklins and many more.

In the year 1906 about sixteen French Canadians took up homesteads in the area at that time thought to be the hamlet site, which now is west of Pickardville. Mr. Racine and Mr. Fenché were the first French Canadians to homestead. Others were Mr. Demers Sr. and Jr., Belval, Hamel, Goupie, Fradette, Thibeault Genest, Blais, Viens and Castonguay.

It was in the year 1906 that our hamlet finally received its name. The name Pickard had been chosen as Mr. Pickard was one of the pioneers and approved by the government to call our new district Pickardville. Our first Post Office was opened in 1907 in the Pickard residence situated a quarter of a mile west of our present Pickardville coal mine, Mr. Pickard being our first postmaster. By this time other settlers had moved into the Pickardville area. In 1908-1909 families such as the Glebes, Marlers, Otis, Boulanger, St. Louis, Bigras, Lebel. Wrens, Garons, Lamberts, St. Pierre, Stumps, Breault, Ouelletes, Ritters, Wilsons, Alligers, L'Heureux arrived. Twenty more French Canadian families came as colonizers from Quebec and Ontario.

Many who had taken homestead earlier were now returning to them to stay and make their homes out of logs being squared by broad ax. Several stayed on their homesteads in the summer and during the winter months went out to freight and do other kinds of



Hazelwood Municipal District Office.

work to earn a few dollars, of course money wasn't a necessity as it is today.

Our pioneers faced the hardships with great courage through out the coming years, and hopes were never given up. The settlers had to travel to Morinville and Edison for their groceries and supplies in mud to the axles of their wagons, getting stuck many times. We can say that there weren't any roads, nor did they have the best of trails to travel on. Many a time they couldn't reach their destination in a single day. They would drop in on settlers along the way whether he was a friend or stranger. No one, certainly, was ever turned down but always made welcome with an open heart as if they were a member of the family.

By now the settlers were looking forward to organizing themselves for the future of their families and the community. In 1908 the first Hazelwood municipality was formed, and meetings were held in the homes until the Vermillion Springs school was built. Some of the first councillors were, Mr. Williams, O'Brien, Marler and Johnny Williams as Secretary Treasurer. Mr. Sid Glebe recalls paying \$4.00 taxes in 1909. Mr. Sid Phillips claims to be the first child born in Pickardville. In 1908 Pete St. Louis and Yvonne Franche were the first French Canadians to be born and christened. There were quite a number of Catholics in the district by now. A priest came to say mass and carry on religious duties in the homes. First marriage took place in the Racine home. His daughter Exilda married Tom Ouellette in 1910.

It was now a question of forming a school district for the children, many of whom were school age. In 1907 the Vermillion Springs school district was formed in the southeast. Mr. G. McMillan, Franklin and Powell were the school trustees. In the north-west part of the district the Racine school district was formed in 1908 being named after Mr. Racine, a pioneer. Later in 1910 the south-west part of the district the Brooklyn (Arvilla) school district was formed. The families sent their children to the closest



school. It wasn't until 1912 that the first Pickardville school district was formed and a school was built on the Townsend place now being Albert Smith's farm. Mr. Crawford was the first teacher. Early trustees were Mr. Stump, Marler and Lambert.

Mr. Demers Sr. donated ten acres of his homestead to the church. In 1911 a little catholic church was built and used as a residence. Mr. Demers built the first Pioneer Store in 1912 west of the little church, which was three miles west of what we know as "the Pickardville corner" today. The building still stands at the same location. During the coming year a blacksmith shop was built along side the store and was operated by Mr. Otis for a few years and later moved to his farm. The post office unfortunately burned down and so the office was changed over to the Pioneer Store.

Although these families had many hardships they enjoyed house parties at anytime, that being their only enjoyment. In the fall some of the men folk went big game hunting for pleasure and a rest from the usual work.



Pickardville Hall.

The railroad went through in the year 1913 four miles east of the planned hamlet site. This made many changes in the years to come.

A cheese factory was built in the year 1914 west of Raymond Breault's buildings at present. It was owned by farmers of the district and later in 1919 it was closed down. More families came at this time such as the Mitchells, and Wileys.

The people of this district had more land broken and crops were larger. Morinville was the closest elevator and farmers found it very far to haul their

grain. Instead they kept cattle and hogs to feed their grain to. It made no difference in the size of hogs then as they were sold on foot by the pound. Farmers waited until they had a full load before taking them to market at Morinville. Roads were bad and they made as few trips as possible.

Wagons were the only means of travel besides the railroad. The closest doctor was thirty miles away, and those having the misfortune to become sick had to stand their aches and pains the best they could. Our old pioneers had no time to think of sickness.

The passing of the railroad had now made a big change in the future of the hamlet. The Demers's decided to build a new pioneer store nearer the railroad in 1916. The post office was also moved along with the store. Later Mr. Vinnette helped with the mail. The Demers store burned down and was rebuilt and still carried the name "The Pioneer Store". Mr. Demers Sr. carried on the business until his retirement. He then turned the business over to his son Joe who carried on for many years. Joe took great interest in the community's affairs, and became a good friend to many as he did all he could to help anyone. In 1917 the telephone came to the Pickard residence. The people now could make quicker communication which saved many trips.

More grain was grown as more land was being broken every year. Grain now could be loaded on cars at the track. At first all the grain was sacked as they had no bins or granaries to put their grain in when it was threshed. One can imagine the extra work in sacking grain, when it came to threshing time. The grain was stooked as many of us do today, but when it was dry it was all put in stacks. In the late fall the thresher came around to each farmer and threshed. The first gas powered threshing machine was owned by Mr. Racine Mr. Glebe, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Goupie and Mr. Garon got a steam engine with a big thresher. The Tally's also had a big steam engine of their own. These steam engines did a lot of threshing in the fall. Mr. Goupie recalls of having threshed sixty days straight, in the fall of 1925 and his crew was more than fed up with threshing and were hoping for the threshing to run out or finish.

More progress took place in 1918, another store was built across from the first Pioneer store by Mr. Gagnon but was only in operation for one year. He decided to move his building nearer to the railroad and is now the Red & White store.

A larger Catholic Church was now built on the Demers homestead in 1918. Many more settlers were coming to the area such as, Nadeaus and Valcourts. The little church was now used as a residence.

It was the interest of the farmers to get a first elevator built in 1918 as the great increase of crops



Pickardville Oldtimers, 1907-1908.

were being produced. Mr. Black and Mr. McNaughton were the first agents of the new Gillespie elevator and followed by Mr. Gillmore in 1919.

The hamlet was continually progressing. During the summer the Royal Bank of Canada was built next to the Pioneer store. The first manager was Mr. Mickey a returned man from the war. He was later followed by Doore.

An implement shed was built by Mr. Demers in 1919, as he had taken up the agency of Cockshutt and Frost and Wood. Farmers now had closer to come for machinery and they were also in need of a blacksmith in the hamlet. Mr. Otis had now moved his shop to his farm and was still doing the blacksmithing.

In 1919 Mr. F. Valiquette built another blacksmith shop in the hamlet to accommodate everyone far and near. The building still stands at present. During the year 1920 the cheese factory which was situated on the correction line was sold to Curly Moreau. He moved the building to Pickardville across from the Pioneer Store and started a Pool room.

The post office changed hands from Demers to Mr. Holley and Mrs. Ross was the postmistress. Tom Holley opened the first hardware and the first McCormick Deering agency. He also sold the first lumber in Pickardville and also had the first Imperial Oil agency. He now built an implement shed west of the hardware. Our hardware operator had most anything you needed.

It was about this time that a U.F.A. local was formed by Mr. G. McMillan and Sid Glebe.

In the past years the only entertainment that the people had were house parties. A good time was generally had by all. The school also served the purpose of a hall for dances. It now was the question of having a town hall. The first hall was built in 1922 east of the Pioneer store. Our hamlet was slowly growing larger. The protestants were now organizing

for a church of their own. In 1922 the United Church was built across from the blacksmith shop and along side Mr. Holly's implement shed. The minister from Busby and Independence also served the United Church in Pickardville.

In the past years not much progress was made. Mrs. Measures was postmistress in the year 1923. In 1925 Mr. Holly rebuilt his implement shed and fixed it into a restaurant. A Chinese man was the first proprietor, at that time.

The community had the misfortune of having their hall burn down after three years of service. The community donated much time in rebuilding the hall the same year. The Tupper elevator was built sometime in the early twenties, later the name was changed to Federal. Mr. Demers sold his implement shed about this time to Mr. Moreau and he made it into a livery barn. Old Grandpa Moreau was a horse lover and a great man with horses.

In 1926 a petition was put up by Sid Glebe and Tommy Measures to have the school moved into the hamlet. In the spring of 1927 from Easter until the end of June school was held in the United Church. By fall a new Pickardville school was built east of the outskirts of the hamlet with Mr. Bourcier as teacher. The old tin school was then sold to Mr. Belval. The new trustees were Sid Glebe, Henry Hill, George Smith and Claude Townsend was Sec. Treas.

In 1928 the community was progressing fairly well as four large tanks were installed by the B. A. Oil Co & the Imperial Oil Co. along the railroad tracks east of the hall. Mr. Poirier was agent for the Imperial Oil for a short time. It was then taken over by Jack Forsyth. The B.A. had Bill Woodley for their agent. Bill Woodley also was the agent for the John Deere and Massey Harris Co.

It was in the year of 1929 that a large amount of building took place in the hamlet. Another room was added to the school as it was already crowded. Mr. Lessard was building the hotel in 1929 when he passed away of a heart attack before it was finished. Pete Murray took it over and opened it. Mr. Frank Thibeault left his farm and moved into the hamlet to become our first cobbler in 1929. He remained until 1936 and then moved to Westlock. A large garage was built across the street from the Red & White store and owned by Pete Deshoux Sr. Mr. M. Lajarise was the operator of the garage and he also installed a power plant along side the garage to furnish the hamlet with electricity.

A station agent was also welcomed to our hamlet in 1929. Mr. Bill Linklater being the first agent. The Pickardville road north to Westlock was surveyed in 1929 and built.

More and more land was under cultivation and



the two elevators we had couldn't handle all the grain. Between 1929-1930 two more elevators were built, the Alberta Wheat Pool and the United Grain Growers. The U. G. G. was taken over by the Alberta Pacific (Federal) in July of 1968. Mr. A. Anhorn as agent, making four elevators in all. Mr. Philompin was the first pool agent and Mr. Bill Stewart the first U. G. G. Although Pickardville was reaping a lot of wheat a great deal of oats and barley were also being grown.

Farmers were in the mixed farming business for the past years but as time went on more livestock was being raised. Several farmers such as Mr. McMillan and J. Lebel had already gone into the registered herds and more were following in their footsteps.

Being four miles away from Pickardville it was then decided to change the location of the Catholic Church into the hamlet in 1929. John McMahon donated eight acres of land to the church. A new church went under construction. Religious duties were carried on at both churches until the spring of 1930 when the old church on the correction line was closed. It was then demolished to remodel the rectory. The priests residence was also moved into Pickardville next to the church. It is now Notre Dame Convent. In the fall of 1930 the Catholic church cemetery was moved into Pickardville. All bodies from the old cemetery were lifted and changed into the Pickardville cemetery behind the church.

Mr. Poirier had given up selling lumber that he had taken over from Mr. Holley and went into the trucking business. The P. Manning Co. built a new lumber yard in 1930 which was managed by Mr. R. Smith. There were also two houses constructed by the company, one for the manager and the other rented out.

Mr. Faulks now opened a butcher shop in the old restaurant next to the church. A little later Bill Woodley went around from farmer to farmer selling meat.

Mr. Holley then sold his hardware to Mr. Harrison and then took up the agency for the U.F.A. Oil co.

The Sutherlands had opened a coal mine on their own farm. The Sutherland boys sold coal to the community for several years. Another coal mine north east of the Sutherland mine was opened around 1931-1932 by Mr. Shaw, the Hotel proprietor at that time. He had water problems with the mine and it was closed down after a year of operation.

As the depression of the thirties affected many, not too much progress was made in the town. The Municipality was constructing more roads and the farmers were allowed to work for a certain amount of their taxes. Taxes had gone up considerably as the years passed to finance schools and roads.

In 1936 business was poor and the first blow came to our hamlet, the Royal Bank was closed and moved to Morinville. Many went to Westlock as it was more convenient for them.

In 1934 the Catholics had a big celebration of their 28 years of pioneering in Pickardville and 25 years of religious duties to the parish.

Another coal mine was opened in 1935 to 1936 on the Townsend farm half a mile west of the hamlet. A good quality of coal was produced but the owners went bankrupt and had to close down after a short time of operating. In the next two or three years not much progress was made.

It wasn't until 1939 that a new Public school was built next to the old one. There was now a teaching staff of three teachers.

A heavy blow came to the hamlet in 1941 when the Hazelwood Municipal Office was closed down and moved to the Sturgeon Division in Morinville. Oscar Patry was the last Sec, Treas. of the Hazelwood Municipality and was then transferred to Morinville.

Andy Poirier bought the Livery barn for a truck garage in 1940 from Mr. Moreau, which was later made into a garage for the hamlet.

It was in the forties that a big confusion came over the building of a Separate school. Finally the St. Bernadette school was built east of the railway station and two years later moved next to the Notre Dame Convent. The Racine, Vermillion Springs and Wood Glen schools were then closed and the Catholic children went to St. Bernadette. The rectory was then used for the nuns residence being named the Convent Notre Dame. The parish now built a new rectory east of the church.

The Calgary power came to the hamlet of Pickardville in 1946 and to quite a few farm homes, although many farmers had plants of their own. Many phone lines were put up giving the farmers more convenience.

In 1946 the Deshoux garage of the hamlet burned down and was not rebuilt. The hamlet could not be without a garage so Edward Boucher bought the Poirier garage and started a garage on his own in 1946 and carried on for 15 years.

The hamlet got it's first cement sidewalks in 1950 making it more convenient for everyone.

A great surprise came to many in 1949 when a gas well was discovered on the Sutherland home place. Gas being plentiful it was then piped into the hamlet in 1951 and later piped to the town of Westlock. So the folks were able to do without coal and wood and used the more convenient gas.

In 1953 Hughie Richardson constructed the locker plant on the north side of the Red & White store. People could now have fresh meat all year round. The

building of a curling rink was now the big talk of the town. People donated their time to cutting logs and sawing them into lumber, while others donated money. By the winter of 1954 the curling rink was built, two sheets of ice were ready for curling for the 24 rinks that had signed up. We can be thankful to the boys for the free upkeep of the ice. Our boys never pass up a good curling game. The community is known for its 1st of July picnics. Baseball and softball have always been a great sport of the hamlet.

A great number of farmers were now forming Co-ops in building power lines and phone lines.

Another blow came to the hamlet in 1956 when the railroad closed its station due to lack of business. Mr. Gordon was the last agent.

The St. Bernadette school was by now overcrowded and so two more rooms were added.

In the late fifties an annex was added to the Alberta Wheat Pool so that they could handle more grain. In 1961 the Alberta Pacific built a new elevator and in 1963 the old Pacific elevator was torn down.

In 1961 Clem Cloutier started an open pit coal mine a half mile west of the Pickardville corner and it is still operating.

Throughout the years the women took great interest in the various clubs. The Women's institute has close to 50 years of service to the community. The Ladies aid are another club that took great interest in their church and community and are at present catering for weddings etc. in the community. The Happy Home Club and the U.F.W.A. were two other clubs that were formed. The Happy Home Club was disbanded in 1967.

Pioneer store prop. in 1968 L.A. Provost  
Red & White prop. Joe Nadeau  
Hardware. 'Joe Moreau  
Lumber Yard — A. Smith  
B.A. Oil. — R. McLaughlin  
Shell — A. Anhorn  
Co-op — E. Glebe  
Hotel . . . R. Sigouin

During the past fifteen years there have been many business changes in the hamlet of Pickardville. In 1969 the Red and White Store and locker plant owned by Joe Nadeau was closed, as by this time most people had freezers. This building was demolished and two new homes were built on the site.

The first elevator built in Pickardville was by the Gillispie Company in 1918. This was struck by lightning, burned, and was rebuilt in the early years. This elevator was demolished in 1973. Two elevators were left, both owned by Alberta Wheat Pool and operated by Nick Shmyrko. In 1977 Nick was transferred to Waskatenau and Albert Esch took over in Pickardville.

In 1974 an old landmark of 1929, the Pickardville Hotel, was destroyed by fire. It was owned by Jay and Rose Yeomans at the time of the fire.

In 1975 the U.F.A. oil business, owned and operated by Elden Glebe for 19 years, was sold to Albert and Elsie Calkins who have expanded the business and offer very good service.

The Pioneer Store, owned by Lorenzo and Simone Provost for 27 years, was sold in 1976 to Don and Nola Ferster who operated it for one year then closed it. This was quite a blow to the area as it was the last grocery store in the hamlet.

Doris Richardson, who had operated the Post Office for 30 years, retired in 1978 and sold the residence and Post Office to John and Lyda Toth. John Toth has been a mail carrier since 1973 when he took over the rural routes following Hugh Richardson's retirement.

1977-1978 saw residential expansion in the hamlet when new homes were built in two sub-divisions. Also, Arnold Schmode opened up a trailer court — fully serviced — and large enough to accommodate nine trailers. In 1977 sewer and water were installed in the hamlet which did much to modernize it.

The Pickardville Supplies changed owners in 1978 when Albert Smith retired and sold his business to Chuck Fisher and partners, who have expanded and are now one of the larger lumber yards in the area.

Shell Oil and Gas was closed in 1981 after it had been operated by Art Anhorn for more than 36 years.

The Town Hall has been re-modelled over the years and is a credit to the town and the community.

The streets were paved in 1982 and re-surfaced in 1983, which cuts down on dust and mud.

Clem Cloutier started an open-pit coalmine in 1961, a half mile west of the Pickardville corner on the correction line, and has been in business ever since, supplying the area with coal and back-hoe service.

The Pickardville Hardware Store is almost as old as the hamlet. It was built in 1920 by Tom Holley and Arthur Ross. It has had many different owners but has always remained a hardware store. In 1963, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Moreau and son Raymond, bought the store. In 1981 Joe Moreau passed away and now Raymond and Vicky carry on the business.

Besides the businesses that have been mentioned other are: Construction and Plumbing Company; paving construction, mobile mechanics service; auto body service; well drilling service; cabinet maker and a plaster and stucco company.

Louis Knick had the franchise for the Polar Bear Distilleries. He has a large structure on the west end



of the hamlet where water distilling equipment is made.



Pickardville original site in 1911, one mile north and three miles west of present Pickardville.



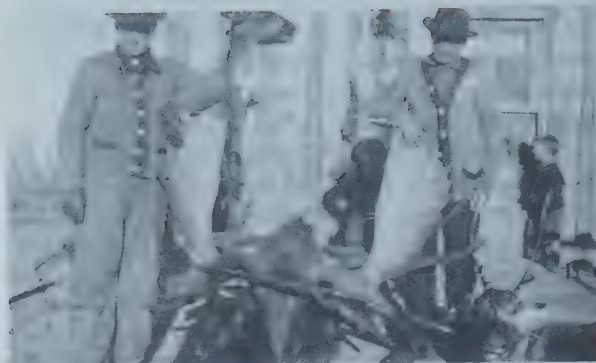
Pickardville School, June 1939.



Royal Bank of Canada, Pickardville.



Pioneer Store in Pickardville. Joe Demers, owner.



First house built on the Fred Wiley farm, in 1906. L to R: Barber from Lethbridge, Fred Wiley, Rex Wiley (child in the background).



Pioneer Store in Pickardville. Built in 1916. Still standing.



Bill Munro, Cliff Metcalfe, and Mr. McAlveny, a teacher.

## Rossington Hamlet by E. Hilliard

Rossington farmers have always been patrons of Westlock rather than trading in Barrhead, only some three miles further in distance. The E.D. & B.C.

railway was serving Westlock some ten or twelve years before branching from Busby to Barrhead. By 1916 there was some grain to be sold over and above that which was needed for home consumption or for trading or selling among other settlers. The early United Grain Growers Co., agent was Lorne Campbell, though the elevator was built later. The grain was generally sacked and then scaled and sold over the platform into or onto rail cars, or shovelled directly from wagons into open grain cars and sold in carload lots by a group of several farmers. The Egar Stanton store at Hazel Bluff very probably served the needs of Rossington West until the Rossington Store (W. Tennant) was in business sometime around 1912.

Pay travel to Rossington and west on the baseline in the early years was by Marshall's Stage (horse and democrat). Dick Fisher of Neerlandia was one of the earliest truckers of haul freight and passengers to Edmonton. Bus service, Edmonton to Barrhead, via Westlock, began in 1926 with a three-times-a-week service. The bus driver was Bill Seaton.

The earliest securable dates of homesteaders within the four or five mile radius of what is now known (or should I say "forgotten") as Rossington, goes back to near the year 1900. The following dates given here are when the homesteads were proved up and the title obtained, in most cases, and some lands made saleable, so it is safe to assume the settlers spent some years clearing the bush land and building liveable homes. A. D. Henderson, partner of Henderson-Donlap, settled at Rossington in 1899, but seemingly did not homestead, though Donlap proved up a homestead in 1907.

The ferry, operating from 1912 as part of the base line (Highway 18) was a current driven carrier and was replaced by the steel structured overhead Rossington Bridge in 1916. Many Westlock business men; J. Dryzel, Postmaster J. A. Edgson, H. Greenfield, were helpful in petitioning for the bridge to be built there, rather than above the junction of the Pembina and Paddle rivers, that was also being petitioned for at that time in that area. There was ferry service from the Moulton and Geddes farms from 1909 to 1912. It was called Clarke's Ferry as the Clarke brothers had built the ferry. They operated a sawmill run by a steam engine, prior to 1914, on their homestead along the river.

The early mail service in 1910 was called Pembina Post Office, and was in the home of R. Moulton, later in the homes of H. Davidson, W. Weir, then to the W. Tennant store at the hamlet site in 1914. The post office name, chosen by the Government, was the name Rossington submitted by the mother of Rossington Moulton. His son, Newell Moulton, still lives on the original farm. For several years the post

office was in charge of A. Geddes until Ellison Tennant took over the store and post office in 1938. Some of the mail carriers to Rossington Post Office were; H. Boshault, E. Berry, Mrs. Berry and then their son. The Government closed the post office officially in 1969.

In the very early years Rossington had a harness shop operated by Lonnie Richardson, a blacksmith shop owned by Fletcher Johnson, a livery barn and lunch stop run by the G. Thompsons, a cheese factory in 1920 with Archie Ashby as cheese maker, a rabbitry, a large bee-honey business owned by J. Watt, a large well attended Pentecostal Tabernacle, one of the first dance halls around, built and owned by the local U.F.A. Group, a Post Office and a prosperous general store. Pembina flood waters had deterred any growth, except for the very determined. Pembina floods date back to 1912 and 1914. Guest's Garage, built around 1938 or 1940 by George Guest, still flourishes under the management of his son Bob and grandson Danny. There are a few homes also in the hamlet.

The first schooling was held in the R. Moulton home in 1908, then in a small log building, officially called Pembina Heights in 1915. Later a new school house was built in 1920, thereafter called Pembina Heights School District #3216.

Some of the title dates of homesteads and lands are:

1905	W. Thompson, T. Clarke, J. Renton.
1906	H. Davidson, J. Rabb, L. Richardson, R. Moulton, D. Geddes, S. Clarke, G. Kane, A. Geddes, R. Thompson, A. Clarke, W. Clarke, D. McCauley.
1907	A. Masse, R. Donlap, Hodge.
1908	A new set of lands was thrown open. W. Weir.
1909	W. Tennant, T. Brabazon, A. Golder, F. Hodge, S. Weir, H. Golder.
1910	J. Renton, W. Bobcock, J. Tennant, A. Clarke.
1911	Herman and sons E. Munsterman, J. Fountain, W. King, L. Holm, T. Letts.
1912	S. Allen, J. Curlett, W. Fountain, E. Munsterman.
1913	M. Peterson, E. McGorian, W. Grant, W. Weir Sr.
1914	J. Topping, A. Johnson, W. Robins, J. Watt and sons, J. Warren, J. Fox, W. Fisher, L. Hunter, H. Curlett, S. Sawyer, D. Hunter, L. Cox.
1915	F. Ralph, F. Berry, W. Ralph, M. Hughes, T. Oxford, H. Mather, L. Busby and sons, E. Weir, A. Archibald.
1917	F. Marquette, A. Blackwell.
1919	G. Kidney, A. Collar, F. Laplante.
1920	F. Johnson, J. Hart, A. Weir. Land was purchased by A. Ashby and H. P. Raymond.

## Story of Sunniebend

The story of this rural farming community revolves to a great extent around its constant landmark, the Pembina River. The reflected sunlight on the ripples of the water caused Samuel Fee to remark on the "sunny-bend" and thus the name of Sunniebend was bestowed on the district.



In 1905 Jack McCrae settled on NW 2-61-27-W4 on the Wabash Creek. His wife followed the next year, and their eldest daughter, Verba, was the first baby born in the Sunniebend District. The next ten years saw many more settlers moving onto homesteads which they had filed on. They included Shorts, Adairs, Wiese, Antonson, O'Connor, Marshall, Stamp, Bush, Harter, Maier, Fee, Deschamps, Lalondes, Carr, Laun, Abeles, Moeck, Henry, Grasby, McLeod and Callow.

The building of that first house or barn was a community project and settlers would gather to lend a hand. The men did the building and the women prepared the meals. These bees provided a social time as well as helping the neighbor.

Wild fruit grew in abundance along the banks of the river and Wabash Creek. Strawberries, saskatoons, raspberries, currants, chokecherries, pincherries and cranberries all helped the settler's store of provisions. Fish and wild game provided meat for the table.

In 1906 Gottlieb Maier settled on NW 15-27-61-W4 and built a log house. A portion of this was used as the Sunniebend Post Office and a store. The post office was later moved to W. H. Short's. Mail was brought weekly on horseback from Riverdale by Quin Golder. With the construction of the E.D. and B.C. Railroad in 1915-16 the post office was moved to Debney — now Pibroch. Later years the mail was brought to Sunniebend corner and as a convenience to the district families, O. P. Adair's opened their home for mail dispersal. The school children usually picked up the mail on their way home from school.

As the community began to take shape it was evident that the Pembina was an obstacle through the center of it. The river could be forded at Adair's and Antonson's but there were times when this was impossible and hazardous. In 1910 a ferry, in the vicinity of the Sunniebend bridge came into service. It was operated by J. P. Wodelet for \$15 a month. Later it was run by the Short Family and after them, Bill Marshall.

The signing of the Armistice in 1918 meant that discharged service men were returning and new people would come to take the land offered by the government for Soldier Settlement. With the influx of these new settlers to the west, by 1920 it was evident that a bridge was necessary to carry the traffic. Some of the local men cut logs and hauled them to a saw mill in the Shoal Creek district to be sawn into timbers for the construction of a bridge. This bridge served the community for the next ten years until the government replaced it with one of steel construction in 1931. The lone pier of this structure could not withstand the heavy ice of the 1935

spring break-up and it swept the pier out, dropping the center of the two spans onto the moving ice below and depositing them on either bank of the river. A ferry had to be used until the bridge was reconstructed. In later years the pier of this structure had to be reinforced. In 1980 this steel bridge was replaced by a modern concrete one.

As people settled in the Sunniebend District it became apparent that a school was a necessity for the education of the young. Those acting on the first Sunniebend School Board were O. P. Adair, Carl Antonson, and Julius Abele, Sr. The school house, a frame and brick-based structure was erected in 1922, costing \$500 — \$600. It was built by Stan Jorgensen and Helmer Hannah. The classroom was furnished with homemade desks and a heater with a long succession of stove pipes. The children carried lunches in Roger's Golden Syrup, Burns and Gainers lard pails. These pails also served to carry water from the artesian well, to flood an area for a skating rink in winter and to drown gophers in spring. The first teacher was Mrs. George Stamp. Mr. and Mrs. Forest Adair boarded the teachers during the time of the Sunniebend School. The school was closed in 1953 and the children were bussed to Pibroch School and later all went to Westlock.

Despite the busy life of the early settler, a time and place was found for religious services. Between 1907 and 1912, Rev. Mr. Telford of Hazel Bluff would conduct services every second Sunday at the home of Charles Adair, Sr. He was assisted by Norman Clark, a homesteader on NE 28-61-27-W4, who would take the service in the absence of Mr. Telford. After the school was built services were conducted there. When the Sunniebend School was closed the building was moved to a new location near the bridge and remodelled for a church. This area was now in the Jarvie Pastoral Charge and a minister would hold regular services. However, this didn't exist for long as a grass fire burned the little church to the ground.

After the steel bridge replaced the wooden one, the timbers from the old bridge were re-sawn into 2" x 4" and the community constructed the Sunniebend Hall. The hip-roofed building was shingled with shingles cut from blocks of wood by a mill on the same site. The next thirty years saw this structure serve many community functions and many good times can be recalled in this hall.

The Sunniebend Local #895 of the United Farmers of Alberta was formed in July 1920 and the officers included Samuel Foster, President, O. P. Adair, Vice-President, and Charles Halliday, Secretary-Treasurer. In 1927 a local of the United Farm Women of Alberta was organized at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. F. W. Adair. Charter members

included Mrs. Wyatt, Mrs. O. P. Adair, Mrs. W. H. Smart, Mrs. F. W. Adair, Mrs. R. Grasby, Mrs. C. Antonson, Mrs. L. Short (Marion), Mrs. P. W. Pettit, Mrs. F. Laun, and Mrs. J. Abele, Sr.

The brushing and breaking of the land meant more crop was being harvested and prospects for the future was good. Many farmers were purchasing more machinery. Then the depression of the early '30's came and many hardships were encountered. The enterprising settler survived these years and by 1936 grain prices improved and the future looked more promising.

The outbreak of World War II in 1939 saw many of the young men enlist for duty in the months to come. They were Archie and Frank Gordon, Earle and Martin Antonson, Gordon Pettit, Ben and Jack Ens, Ed Bell, James Thompson, Pat Doyle, Paul Luczkiw, Ralph Abele, Roudolph Smith, Elton Short and Edith Fulcher. Killed in action were Archie Gordon and Ernest Wagner.

For the people who remained at home it meant gasoline being rationed; also sugar, butter, tea, coffee and meat could only be bought with ration coupons. New farm machinery was scarce as manufacturing companies were producing war material. 1945 saw the end of this war and the community breathed a sigh of relief.

The spring break-up of 1944 on the Pembina River was quiet with only normal run-off. However, in June, western and central Alberta received a steady week-long rain and the river began to rise. The murky waters backed into creeks, sloughs and low areas, rising an inch an hour. Livestock was marooned on high ground and some were swept away by the current. The water lapped at farm homes and buildings. Neighbor camped with neighbor, while others moved to the second storey and hoped for the best. The river reached a record high level and a width of five miles. The United States Reserve, stationed in Edmonton, were the first to come with army rations for those who needed food. Others were the Royal Canadian Navy, R.C.M.P. and the Red Cross. The stricken community appreciated their assistance. When the water receded, damage to crops and loss of livestock and grain was evident, but personal experiences were told with relish and spiced with humor. The year 1948 saw the Pembina rise to a high level bringing icy water which remained for three weeks. This was repeated again in 1954.

Sunniebend farmers had been experimenting with forage seed which at this time was a good price. Prosperity became apparent. New farm machinery, cars, and homes made an appearance and probably the most welcome was the electrical power in 1950. Natural gas was brought to the district in the late

'60's. This meant an end to burning wood and coal to heat homes.

Sunniebend had had a rural telephone before the depression but that was one luxury that had to go when times got tough. Marshall's, Antonson's and Grasby's joined the Sunny Bank Telephone Co. and many used their phones in an emergency. In 1949 shares were sold in the Pibroch Mutual Telephone Co. and lines were built to bring telephone service to the community again. In 1969 Alberta Government Telephones installed buried cable.

Today, farmers in the district have obtained more land by buying neighboring farms. With these larger units the purchase of larger machinery was a necessity. The past seventy years have seen many changes in the Sunniebend District but the legacy of rich farmland that the early settler cleared from the heavy bush will be apparent for many years to come.

## **History of Vimy**

**submitted by Albreda Fortier**

The small hamlet of Dunrobin had its name changed to Vimy in 1915 after the battle of Vimy Ridge. The school which also bore the Dunrobin name became Vimy School District #3485. The first teacher at Vimy School was Joe Dusseault, a local teacher living on a farm one and a half miles away. Joe was known for many years as an exceptional hockey player.

The early settlers were of French Canadian descent. Among them were the names Aquin, Huot, Blanchette, Bouchard, Bilodeau, Francois and Aime Fortier, Arthur and Joe Provencal, Sabourin, Morissette, Baert, Carriere, St. Arnaud, Gagne and Morin.

In 1919 a house was built by Henry Ethier and in 1920 Fernando Carriere, Alex and Fred Belland added houses to the hamlet. A bank was built bearing the name of "Hochelaga". Alberic and Francois Landry arrived in 1920 and maintained a store from 1924-1977. A blacksmith shop, Mr. Roberge's butcher shop, a shoemaker and a cafe were built. Graham Co. opened a lumber yard, Albert Giguere operated a garage. The first Post Office was run by Benoit Baert followed by Mrs. Boyer. In 1923 the Landry brothers took over the Post Office and operated it for forty five years. Mr. T. St Arnaud was a member of parliament for a few years in the area. The first elevator named Gillespie was operated by Frank Dusseault, to be followed by the Alberta Pacific, The United Grain Growers and in 1928 the Alberta Wheat Pool operated by Fernando Carriere.

The first priest in Vimy was Father Mallet who came to the community in 1921. In 1930 Rev. Father Koolen came and remained there for fifteen years. In



1944 the Sisters arrived to take charge of the school. Sisters Elizabeth, Ephriem and Antoinette were the first ones to be followed through the years by twenty-seven in the parish. In 1947 the Convent Notre Dame de Lourde was built by Rosaire Fortier.

From 1945 to 1950 Father Therrien was in the parish and Vimy became known as the "Sport Centre North of Edmonton" Father Therrien was a fine athlete and a good organizer of sport activities. The Old Parish Hall was burned and he organized the building of a new one.

In 1958 Father Ricard took over the parish and during his time a new church was built in 1962.

Father Mailloux spent five years in Vimy. He will be remembered by his parishioners as a repair man with an axe, saw or hammer in his hands.

An International Machine Shop was opened in 1950, owned and operated by Albreda Fortier for 15 years.

In 1959 Mrs. Landry opened a variety store.

The school at Vimy taught grades one to twelve for several years, then students were bussed to Westlock to get more programs. At first only grade XII made the move then grade eleven and at this time grades are from Grade One to Nine.

## Early Days in Westlock

by Mary Jorgenson

People need roots; we all need friends;  
We all look backward to where our lifestyle  
begins.

Life is a mixture of pleasure and pain,  
Only the memories with us now remain.

The early days in Westlock, at the close of World  
War One;

Like a restless, rising tide, our village was nicely  
begun.

Our Main Street was busy, a Bank, Hardware,  
Hotel,

A school and a lawyer's office, A Doctor and  
Druggist as well.

The churches were well attended, for worship and  
socials too,

Places for the young, and the elderly, to meet with  
friends whom they knew.

Remember the village blacksmith, and the red hot  
coals,

The anvil chorus as the metals he would shape and  
mold!

Next came the hospital, a very much needed  
addition;

Its service to the community was truly a Christian  
Mission.

There were hockey games and baseball too,

Down in the old fair grounds, and in a building  
large and new.

There was a Livery Stable, and a man they all  
called "Joe"

Who sheltered many weary men, who were broke,  
and no place to go.

Without a chinese restaurant, no town would be  
complete,

So along came two Asian boys who provided a  
good place to eat.

Westlock to you now is a thriving little town,  
A centre for good business, and Agriculture of  
renown.

Westlock, on the wings of time has many changes  
made,

But always there will be memories that will never,  
never fade.

I refer you to a poem by Chief Dan George:

The beauty of the trees,  
The softness of the air,  
The fragrance of the grasses,  
The brightness of the stars,  
The freshness of the morning,  
The dew drops on the flowers.  
They speak to me of Westlock.



Main Street from the Catholic Church steeple, prior to 1936.



Road grading in Westlock.



The Westlock Creamery. Bill Gilchrist in doorway (manager), Fred Whittaker Butter grader and Jim.



McTavish first store, enlarged.



Station in Westlock.

### Pioneer Hardships as told to Fred Baxandall by Frank Bunce

Frank Bunce was a pioneer homesteader who came to the Hazel Bluff district about 1907 from the state of Michigan, U.S.A. We were his neighbors in 1920.

It was about 1910. Frank had an abcessed tooth. He said it was very painful. When he walked around it felt like the top of his head was about to burst.

There was no Westlock in those days, no doctor or dentist; the closest one would be either Morinville or Edmonton. The only one who could pull a tooth was a Mr. Jack Edgson, four miles east of where Westlock now is. Jack was a homesteader at Edison. It seems he could almost turn his hand to anything and was willing to help anybody. Frank decided he would walk to Edison to have the tooth pulled, a distance of twelve or thirteen miles. As he walked it seemed to ache more but he just kept on walking over muskeg, through bush, across the Wabash Creek and on to Edgson's home. By this time he couldn't stand the pain any longer. He told Mr. Edgson his problem, and it was decided to pull the tooth. I guess it was a long, painful ordeal. Jack tried for some time but it wouldn't come. Jack stopped pulling and told Frank it wouldn't come out but Frank insisted he wanted it out. Of course, there was no freezing in those days and it was very painful.

Well, Jack decided he would give it another try, and try he did. This time it did come out and so did the blood, all over everything. Frank said, "What a relief." Jack fainted. When Jack came to, Frank, still bleeding, decided to start the long trek home. By the time he got back to the homestead shack a few hours later, he had had to make many stops along the way to rest. He was laid up for a few days but being a very hardy man, he soon recovered, being none the worse for his ordeal.

Just one grim experience of a pioneer settler.

### Westlock — A Local History written by Jean Gilchrist while in Grade IV Teacher — Ivan Sutherland 1933-34

Not so very long ago there were no white people in this country at all. The animals and birds would only be bothered by an occasional tribe of Indians and as a result, were more plentiful than they are now. There were no fences or houses. All that could be seen was long grass, bush and, once in a while, the camp of a wandering Indian tribe.

Possibly some fur traders or early explorers passed here.

In 1904 and 1905 there were several homesteaders already in this district. It is very easy to understand why this section of the country was settled late. Pioneers tell us the whole district was swampy. One farmer said he could have rowed across the spot, where his farm is now, in a boat. The only method of coming in was by team from Edmonton, and you had to keep to the ridges or you were liable to get stuck. By one trail you forded Egg Lake and the horses sometimes had to swim a bit. Horses, mules and oxen have been drowned in the water-holes here. Wagons have been stuck so tightly that heavy pulling



has broken them. You could hardly get through from Westlock to Pibroch by saddle horse. Usually it was best to detour to the west and then go north.

The first settlers lived in log houses. A frame house was a curiosity for years. The homesteaders had to cut the brush from their farms to grow crops. There was much long grass and we find the farmers had much stock. The growing of grains was not done to any great extent until quite recently. The only grains for years were oats and barley.



Westlock — 1925 from the west.

All supplies had to be brought from Edmonton then. Morinville was then built and later Clyde and Edison. Edison was a thriving village then.

In 1904, Mr. Joe Maloney started a store in a log building on the corner at Edison, which was a hamlet three miles east of Westlock. It was the first post office, with mail coming in once a week. The settlement's first school was erected here with Mr. Alex McGregor as the teacher. Several buildings from Edison were later moved to Westlock.

Edison was named after Thomas A. Edison the inventor, but Mr. John Edgson was one of the first settlers and this name was, in part, a compliment or honor to his name.

Westlock townsite was surveyed in 1912. The land was purchased from William Westgate and William Lockhart. Thus it was named Westlock after these two men. It was incorporated in 1916 with Mr. Geo. McTavish as the first mayor, Mr. J. R. Wheatley and Mr. F. J. Patterson councillors and Mr. J. W. Shutt was secretary-treasurer. It is interesting to learn that Mr. McTavish filled that post for nine years. Mr. McTavish refused to seek renomination this year as mayor again. Mr. Curlett now occupies that position with Mr. Clark and Mr. Hollingshead as councillors and Mr. Roulston as secretary-treasurer.

Mr. McTavish built the first store here. It was small, and looked very lonesome amid the brush and long grass. This store was built in 1913. This is now part of Don Stanton's store.

The railroad was completed as far as Dapp in 1913. The first trains were mixed trains. Putting in the road bed was difficult since country was so swampy. Much brush and cinders had to be used to fill this. The road bed was not very solid when finished and the cars rose enough sometimes to uncouple them. One place just south of town a chain was left always so it would be ready to fasten between the cars when they uncoupled. Often it took some time to get past a spot like this. To get easily north or south the men of the town took a handcar. In order to keep it, they always hid one wheel when finished using it. Mostly it was kept in Mr. McTavish's warehouse.

Mr. McKinly, David Bentley's grandfather, was the first station agent. Mr. McTavish's store was built in 1913. A Chinese restaurant was built next. Then a livery barn was built where Mr. Stutchbury now has his office. These buildings were both burned. The hardware of Mr. Dazell's was built about this time and still stands. Part of it is a shoemaker shop and the restaurant. For a time there was also a restaurant made of two tents between Mr. Dazell's and Mr. McTavish's store. Mr. Foote had a store where the poolroom is today. The house behind the bank was built in 1913. Dr. Geddes lived there. Mr. Prosser built the printing office as a blacksmith shop the same year. The Tice Drug Store was built on the lots where Mr. Tice now has his garden, by the Stanley brothers. They were killed at the war.



Westlock — 1925 from the east.

Lumber was piled on the street. Mr. Patterson had a planer. The first house built was Mr. Alton's which was then owned by Mr. Loyal.

The first elevator was the United Grain Growers elevator, built in 1916. Lorne Campbell was the first agent here. Before that grain was loaded in cars from wagons (track buying). Westgates sold the first carload of grain in 1914. This was of oats. They hauled it by an old trail across the school yard straight by the telephone office.

There was no bank until the first Sunday after

Armistice, November 11, 1918. The Merchants' Bank phoned and asked if there was a suitable building available. The bank opened for business Monday morning in the old butcher shop (Renton's). Mr. McTavish's safe was used, since they had no vault. Mr. Garrison opened the first account and Mr. McTavish the second.

The first school was held in the second storey of the store east of where the hospital now is. The first teacher was Mr. Smiley. In a short time the small school (now the grade one room) was built. When it was first used it was too small, so to give more room, the cloak room was taken out. When the school district of Swallowhurst and Westlock were consolidated the tin school, now the U.F.A. Hall, was moved in from Swallowhurst and used also. The house now occupied by Mr. Bauer was the High School. The brick school we now use was built in 1925. There are six rooms in it and the original school building is still used for grades one and two.

In the first year, Jess Bell had a general store on the baseline about where the hospital is. This building was later moved by Mr. St. John to its present location as Mr. McTavish Store. Dios Smith's house, in which Mr. Clennett lives was a Chinese restaurant run by Cling. Hang Englis had a restaurant where Miller Watt's garden is. This building was called the fountain house and is now Mr. Montpellier's house. Marshall's livery barn was back of Ray's Service Station; Ed Rogers and Son had a livery barn by Cling's Restaurant. F. Johnson had a blacksmith shop by the livery barn.



Westlock — 1925 from the north.

The United Church services were held in Mr. Lovall's house (M. Alton's). The church from Edison was moved to Westlock in 1914. This burned in 1927 and was replaced by the present building of which only the basement is completed.

The Catholic church held their first service in Westlock in the theatre. Father Koolen came from

Clyde for the service. The building now used as a home for the priest was used for a month as a church until the present building was completed. Father McIntyre was the first priest resident in Westlock (1920).

The first Anglican service was held in F. Westgate's house. The present building was built by part-time work of the men of the congregation.

Across from McTavish's store Jim Renton, had a harness and a butcher shop in 1914. This corner burned twice. The second time Mr. Clark had a restaurant there also. Mr. Montpellier owned the blacksmith shop on the hitching grounds and lived overhead. It later was moved to where it is at present. F. Johnson had a blacksmith shop at the same time. He sold it to Tom Nunn and it became a pool room and barber shop. Dr. Geddes made it into a drug store run later by Mr. McEwan, and still by Mr. Torrie. At the moment it is Dr. Miller's home.

The post office was managed first at Edison by Mr. Deffenbaugh. When he moved to his farm the post office was moved also. For a short time it was in an office on the Service Garage corner. Mr. Alton was postmaster and had the land titles office. It was in the hardware by the station and conducted by Dazell's until six or seven years ago the present post office was built and Mr. Armstrong became postmaster.

The railroad has run two trains each way through here since it started. For eighteen months there were three trains a week. Since 1929 we have had two again. For a few months they ran a gas car from here to Edmonton. It left here at seven in the morning and returned at seven at night. The people named it "The Skunk." Its last was in November, 1920. The railroad has been owned by the E.D. and B.C., the Provincial Government, a joint ownership by the C.P.R. and C.N.R., and the Northern Alberta Railway. As the E.D. and B.C. it was known as Expensive, Dangerous and Badly Constructed.

Prosser Brothers built the theatre. The building now occupied by the "Witness" office was built by Mr. Prosser as a grocery store.

Mr. Roulston started our local paper, "The Witness" there and Mr. Smith took it over from him. Prosser and Deffenbaugh built a machine shed. It was the Ford agency, then a livery barn. It burned. Mr. Curlett built it again and Crone's took it over.

The old E.D. and B.C. restaurant building, torn down, was built by Griswold for a Chinaman named Sam Lee. A. Marshall bought it and tore it down. For a number of years it had not been used.

Mr. Skinner and Mr. Pierce built the Hunter Hardware. Mr. Hunter and Mr. Jameison bought, and now Mr. Hunter owns it, having bought his parter's share. Mr. Steele had the Renaud Hardware built. Mr.



Skinner and Mr. Pierce were in there for some time. Mr. Dios Smith moved there from the Dazell building. Henry Morman was the tinsmith. Renaud and Mr. Bennett bought it and now Mr. Renaud has it.

The hotel was built by Mr. Hergott but was financed by Mr. Sheppard of Edmonton Brewery and as a result is called the "Sheppard Hotel." Mr. Hinton ran it and then Mr. Sampson managed it. Mr. Curlett now owns it.

Mr. Nunn's shop was pulled from Pickardville for Paddey and Wener fur buyers.

The Bank of Montreal was in a small shack near where Mr. Stutchbury's office is. It burned and was replaced by the present building. For a short time Imperial Bank had its office in the Beauty Parlor (1920).



Westlock — 1925 looking east.

Jack McCrae had the pool room built. Mr. McLaren built the Murfitt Butcher Shop. It was used as a shoes repair shop by Mr. Bombarger and Fred McLeod. An extension was put on the back for a pool room run by Jack McCrae. Kelley Davidson had a barber shop in the front. Mr. Clark had a confectionery and then Mr. Bruder and Mr. Murfitt started the butcher shop and used the old pool room for storing meat. Mr. Murfitt still owns it and employs Mr. Ritz.

Constable McGillicuddy was the first policeman here. The Mounties were stationed here until the Provincial Police were organized. Mr. Larson's house was the police barracks. The Provincial Police transferred the office to Clyde but during Constable Watt's term of office it was returned here. Since the

R.C.M.P. took it over again we have two and sometimes three policemen but the district is larger.

Mr. Gilchrist has been manager of the creamery since it was built in 1923.

The Ford garage was built by Mr. Harris. Mr. Pierce, the Ford salesman, bought it and since has sold it to Mr. Forster.

The telephone office has had many positions. It was moved so often it is hard to follow it but it was in Moon's house and it was in Chas. Roulston's office. The new telephone office is a well kept place and it was certainly an asset to the town.

The hospital was built by a Roman Catholic organization from Montreal. The contractor was Mr. Gordon from Vegreville. In charge of it are several nuns and they usually employ two or three nurses. There are three doctors in town. Dr. Henderon has been here for a number of years. Dr. Kickham and Dr. Miller have been here but a couple of years.

For dental work, Dr. Sands has his office above Mr. Tice's drug store.

Mr. Forster sells Ford motor cars and is equipped to repair motor cars of all kinds. Mr. F. C. Downing sells Chevrolet motor cars and has a repair shop. Mr. Hide sells Dodge motor cars, equipping a shop on Mr. Curlett's lot. Mr. Curlett sells the Hudson and Essex cars.

Mr. Smith and Mr. St. John occupy the brick garage on the main street owned by Mr. Wodelet. Mr. Panner now occupies the building formerly Ray's Service Station. Mr. R. Westgate has a carpenter shop behind the service station.

The Curling Rink has three sheets of ice and is a very busy place in the winter. The skating rink, although small, is a closed structure. In the summer a floor is put in for dancing and agricultural association use it as an exhibit building on Fair Days. The fair-ground is also equipped with a race track, baseball grounds, tennis courts and a golf course.

There are many beautiful homes around town. Many trees, bushes, flowers and well kept lawns and gardens make a fine picture.

The surrounding agricultural district is devoted to mixed farming. Since the grain price has dropped, more animals are raised. Plenty of rainfall makes a crop failure practically impossible.

# Businesses

## Alberta Wheat Pool Elevator No. 1

The Alberta Wheat Pool built their first elevator in Westlock in 1927. This was a 40,000 bushel regular elevator.

With business increasing it was necessary to construct a balloon annex in 1940 with a capacity of 35,000 bushels.



Winter time, Alberta Wheat Pool Elevator, Westlock.

In 1968 a new 54,000 bushel elevator and a 63,000 bushel crib annex were built replacing the older elevator which was remodelled into a twin annex.

Elevator managers:

Sutherland, D. A.  
Nov. 16, 1928 to July 9, 1931.  
Brabbins, C. P.  
July 9, 1931 — Aug. 1, 1933  
Junck, S. G.  
Aug. 1, 1933 — May 29, 1939  
Harrold, E. B.

May 20, 1939 — June 10, 1939

Sumner, F. H. B.

June 10, 1939 — July 4, 1947

Beairsto, R. L.

July 4, 1947 — Aug. 6, 1953

Ball, J. E.

Aug. 6, 1953 — Aug. 3, 1960

Patterson, J. E.

Aug. 3, 1960 — Oct. 12, 1965

McLean, W. D.

Oct. 12, 1965 — May 24, 1979

Mack, W. W.

May 24, 1979 — to date

Bratke, K. G. (Agro manager)

May 1, 1979 — to date

## Elevator No. 2

In March, 1972 the Wheat Pool purchased from Federal Grain Ltd. a 33,000 bushel elevator which had been built in 1924, with a 29,000 bushel annex added in 1952 and a 47,000 bushel crib annex built in 1965. The balloon annex was dismantled in Oct. 1983.

## Elevator No. 3

In 1972 another elevator was purchased from Federal Grain Ltd. This elevator was built in 1919, had a capacity of 29,000 bushels with a 29,000 bushel balloon annex built in 1950 and a 57,000 bushel crib annex built in 1965. The balloon annex was sold in 1977.

With increased business in fertilizer and seed grain and grasses, it was necessary to build a 400 ton bulk handling fertilizer plant and a 65' x 165' bag warehouse to house seeds, bagged fertilizer and chemicals. These buildings were constructed on a new site in 1979.

## Elevators #2 and #3 managers:

Wilson, L. D.

March 6/72 — Aug. 3/73

Kerr, D. W.

Aug. 20/73 — June 2/75

Mack, W. W.

March 5/79 — to date

Bratke, K. G.

March 1/79 — to date



Station	Year	Total Receipts	Highest Receipts	Lowest Rec. Westlock
1932-1982				
Tonnes				
Tonnes				
Tonnes				
#1, #2, #3		345,532	29,828	519
			(1981-1982)	(1935-1936)

## The A & M Store

by Frank Arth

This year (1982) marks the 30th Anniversary of A & M Stores in Westlock.

The original store was owned by S. A. Lindahl. Mr. Lindahl operated both grocery and dry goods, and in 1952 sold the dry goods portion to Messrs Frank Arth and Henry Michaud. The store was divided in two — Lindahls beginning an era of modern supermarket merchandising and A & M Store beginning an era of modern clothing and footwear retailing.

Frank Arth came to Westlock from Cadomin, Alberta where he operated a general store in this coal mining town. Mr. Arth moved to Westlock with his wife and two children, Dick and Joan. Henry Michaud came to Westlock from Edmonton, with his wife and three children, Susan, Louise and Richard. Mr. Michaud was a traveller for several years for Brooks of Calgary, Alberta.

The growth of A & M Store over the years has been gradual and continuous.

- 1952 First year of business in Westlock.
- 1960 Both A & M and Lindahl's did considerable renovations, adding a larger warehouse area, new fixtures, new floors etc.
- 1965 A & M Store purchased the whole store building from Lindahl's and expanded to double its size. Lindahl's relocated to their present site in a new \$250,000.00 super market.

The official opening of A & M Store after this expansion was conducted by the Minister of Industry & Development, A. R. Patrick. With the new facility, A & M claimed to be one of the largest independent department stores in Alberta, with facilities equal to the best in larger places.

- 1968 Richard Arth, (son of Frank Arth) purchased the shares of Henry Michaud. Richard moved to Westlock from Leduc, Alberta, where he was employed as a school teacher. His wife and three children came with him.
- 1970 A & M Store purchased the building next door from Mrs. Cryderman, enlarging the store and developing a very modern fabrics and bedding centre.
- 1974 The last expansion of the present store took

place, resulting in a very modern ladies-wear department — new rugs, electronic cash registers, etc.

- 1981 Frank Arth sold his shares in the business to Richard and Brad Arth. Brad is the son of Richard, and now A & M Store is into the third generation.

The growth of A & M has been deliberate, and in response to the growth and demand of Westlock and area. Over the years A & M has branched out to other centres, such as Swan Hills, Edson and Thorhild, and was a foundation member of Independent Retailers of Canada. The growth is also reflected by the great public support of A & M Stores over the years — a support that is never forgotten and always appreciated. The new generation plans to keep the A & M Store growth going, and over the next thirty years very interesting things should happen.

## B & K Mini Mart

by Bob Singleton

Through the open door and up two steps at 10528-100th Ave., Westlock, on the lot directly south of the Alberta Treasury Branch, is the present location of Bob Singleton's "B & K Mini Mart" and "Shutter-Bug Photo."

The small combination confectionary and photo shop opened in August of 1980, on the former site of the old Montpellier house. The original house, once occupied by Whissell Clinic has seen a succession of businesses since the early 1920's. Other former occupants of this site were Zacek's Barber Shop, Ed Evans Barber Shop, Clarence Arndt's Barber Shop, Hart-Nessler Dental Repair, and Fred Morie's Insurance Office.

The current tenant, B & K Mini Mart, shares the building complex with three apartments and Chatelaine Beauty Salon.

Shutter-Bug Photos presently has the only automatic color photo processor in town, ready to turn out color photo reprints in a total time of seven minutes. In addition to photography and grocery items, a T-shirt press and approximately 2100 iron-on transfers have been added. B & K Mini Mart is the home of an original political T-shirt creation, a good seller in the present tight economic condition of Alberta.

## Beaver Lumber Company

by Daisy Boyd

Before Beaver Lumber closed its doors, it was the oldest business in Westlock. It had been selling lumber from the same corner for over sixty years. It started out, and ended, as part of a chain of lumber

yards. Beaver Lumber Company was founded in Winnipeg by R. J. Gourley in 1905. From there the chain spread west over the prairies to the coast and east to Ontario and Quebec. Facts and figures are difficult to find, as it seems no one kept records.

Beaver Lumber Westlock opened its doors for business in 1919. A small wood frame building served as an office and stored the articles of the trade that had to be protected from the wind and weather. Most of the stock was kept outside. Mr. William (Bill) McCollough was, I believe, the first manager, taking over when he returned from the first World War. Dick Adkins remembers buying lumber from him in 1920 to build his brother's house.

Mr. McCollough guided the fortunes of Beaver Lumber for at least 35 years. Quite an accomplishment! I understand he did very well, probably supplying the material for the oldest houses in Westlock. However, what I remember best about Mr. McCollough, is his beautiful bass voice.

There was a new manager in the mid-fifties, Peter Armshaw. Dick said Nard Shaver bought lumber from him in 1957 to rebuild the Adkins' barn after it blew down in a tornado.

The little old store-office was replaced in 1960 with the present large cement block building. By this time Russell Cook had become manager. Now much more stock could be under cover, and it saved a lot of digging around in the cold and snow for "just the right piece of plywood." Business was good. However, the late 60's brought problems and about 1969 the fortunes of Beaver Lumber Ltd hit an all time low, with four managers in one year.

In 1970, Earl Jensen took on the task of building up the business. Earl was an excellent business man with a lot of experience in the lumber trade. He promised to "give it a good try for one year" — which eventually stretched into ten years.

In 1973 the Beaver Lumber chain was bought out by Molson's, and some time later the head office was moved to Toronto.

When I came to Beaver in the fall of 1974, Ron Sieban and Earl were working hard and doing a fair business. I started working three afternoons a week doing the bookwork. The mid 70's, though, was a busy time for the construction industry and I was soon working nearly full time as book-keeper, clerk and general Jo-girl. Early in my career in the lumber business, Nard Shaver rushed in one morning and said he needed a lumber stretcher right away. I think I surprised him when I said I was sorry but I had just sold the last one we had!

Ron left to take over his own store in the Peace River area and, after a succession of assistant man-

agers, Ralph Hirst joined the staff. Kim Boyd was our yardman that year.

Business grew and so did our staff. Ewald Geschwind came to replace Kim in the yard with his son, Terry, to help out. Gladys Robinson looked after the stock in the store — by this time we had added a full line of builder's hardware. I did the book-keeping, invoicing, etc. and we both worked as clerks as well. Ralph and Earl took care of estimating and all the other things assistant managers and managers are responsible for.

The three garages that had been used to store mouldings, gyproc and insulation, on an adjoining lot, were replaced by a large metal storage shed about 1976. A year or so later we had the yard all fenced. We were all very proud of the way things were going and in 1978 business reached almost the three-quarters-of-a-million dollar mark.

But! The economic future began to dim as interests rose to unheard of heights and jobs disappeared. Earl's health had been causing problems and in the fall of 1980 he retired. Ralph became our manager.

The recession was really making itself felt in the building industry as mortgage rates climbed. Head office began closing stores. Keen competition and a major slow-down in construction made profits drop sharply. We tried cutting inventory and reducing staff hours but it didn't help. The end of September, 1982, our superintendant brought us the word that the Westlock store, along with Redwater, Ponoka, Camrose and Leduc, was to be closed. Stock was reduced and what didn't sell was packed and moved. On December 18, 1982, Beaver Westlock closed its doors for good. Many people miss the convenience of being able to walk over to pick up a 2 x 4 or whatever.

The building has been sold but still stands empty — a sad reminder that nothing is forever.

## Bees

### by Lilian Gault

In April 1946, Clyde Gault moved to Westlock from Buhl, Idaho. He was the first commercial beekeeper north of Edmonton. He bought an acre and a half of land from Harry Curlett where he built his extracting building. Now five homes stand on the property and he has moved his honey plant to five acres on the old George Dieffenbaugh farm.

At the time he arrived in Westlock, there were several farmer beekeepers, Bert Farmer, O. H. Hunter, Jerry Dyk, Russell Sterling, and Elmer Van Dresser (to mention just a few) who purchased about 4000 packages of bees from the Sacramento Valley in California. They used to ship them on the train. Millar Watt was the Secretary-Treasurer for The Westlock Beekeepers Association. Then, maybe a





Mac McCabe at the beehives.

couple of years later, George Toporisky (now of Clyde) and his son, Reed, trucked all the bees for the Association, and other Co-ops, making five trips in the Spring from California. The last shipment of bees for the Association was in 1956, and Louise Van Dresar was the Secretary. Russell Sterling was the local bee inspector for many years.

When Clyde Gault came into the district, there were acres and acres of clover, but now things have

changed and clover fields are scarce. The beekeepers depend on Rape crops now. Clyde's son, Bill, has been operating the business since 1971.

There are several commercial beekeepers in the district now. They must purchase between 10000 and 20000 packages of bees in the spring from California. Some are trying to winter the bees but most think it is not profitable. In 1965 the bees cost \$5.00 a package; now they are \$18.00 to \$24.00.

Extraction of the honey goes on from the end of July for about six weeks. The honey is put into 700 lb. barrels for shipment.



Bee-keepers field day at the Max Ziese farm, Dapp. 1944.

## The History of the Bon-Ton Store in Clyde, Alberta

Frank and Ada McDonnell, with their little daughter, Celestine, moved from Edmonton to Clyde in 1919 and opened a store in the old Weidrick Building which had been moved next to the hotel. They called it the "Bon-Ton" and operated a Meat Market, Fruit and Vegetable section, Confectionary, Soda Fountain and Ice Cream Parlor.

Later, when the bus started running from Edmonton to Athabasca, they operated the bus depot. The school children loved to come to the "Bon-Ton" at noon to spend their pennies on all-day suckers, jaw breakers, ice cream and pop. Mr. and Mrs. "Mc" (Mac), as they were called affectionately, enjoyed having the children in the store.

Greta Taylor once said, "I remember when we were playing on the street, we would go into the store and ask for a drink of water. I often wondered how many glasses had to be washed because each of us was always given a clean glass."

Jim and Edith Cunningham's daughter, Jean, liked to serve in the Ice Cream Parlor which was a popular meeting place.

Mr. Mc was interested in sports and presented cups to the Men's Baseball Team, the Ladies Softball



Beekeeping in Westlock District, 1939.



The Bon-Ton Store at Clyde, about 1922.

Team and the track races. Clyde banners and calendars were available for all the customers.

When Dr. L. A. Miller opened an office in Clyde, he asked Mrs. Mc to accompany him on his house calls to the surrounding countryside.

Mr. and Mrs. Mc purchased the first Model T Ford owned in Clyde.

Charlie Poon came from Hong Kong and opened a restaurant near the station. Mr. and Mrs. Mc sponsored his family to join him in Clyde.

Mr. and Mrs. Savage ran the station depot. Their daughter, Thelma, was ill with tuberculosis and was forced to sleep outside in a tent. Every night Mrs. Savage would go out to see her when she had a coughing spell. The lights of Clyde were out except at the Bon-Ton and she knew that Mr. and Mrs. Mc were up cleaning the store. It was comforting to her to know that she could get help from them if needed at such a late hour.

The Bon-Ton was later operated by their daughter, Celestine, and her husband, Barrett Chevalier, who later sold it to Ed. Donald in 1945 when they moved to Edmonton. These were post-war years and time to make renovations to the aging structure. Ed had a foundation put under it at a cost of \$8,000, a new floor installed, complete new 220 volt electric wiring installed, a forced air furnace put in and a walk-in refrigerator installed. New roofing was laid and a new chimney built. The ice cream parlor was removed in 1948 to make way for living quarters behind the store. The front windows were remodelled in 1951. Later, a new scale, a more modern meat grinder, an ice cream cooler, a pop cooler and an adding machine were replacement fixtures. The upstairs floor was renovated and redecorated for living space and was also used as an office for an oil company.

Ed sold out in 1957 to Mr. Mc Cordick who owned the property for only a short time, and from then on it was to change hands several times. Carl Schmermand will be remembered as having operated the business for the longest period in recent times until it was bought by the present owners, Hughy and Judy Hampshire in 1973.

While the present building bears little resemblance to the original either inside or outside, it is now the only general store and meat shop in Clyde.

A fire destroyed the upstairs living area and now the family resides in their modern mobile home next door. Hughy supplies an efficient meat-cutting and freezer-wrapping service. Judy and a casual staff carry on the business of selling everything from fillet mignon to children's books.

Hughy serves on the Town Council and is a member of the Lions Club. Both Hughy and Judy are on the Rodeo Committee whose activities take place regularly at the Clyde Sports Grounds.

Mr. Mc died on May 5, 1946 at the age of 87.

Mrs. Mc died on July 22, 1962 at the age of 91.

## The Clyde Drug Store

by Vivian Nichols

Matthew John Rowland was born in Victoria, B.C. on December 25, 1886. He was raised and educated in Victoria until he went to university in Toronto, Ontario, where he graduated as a Pharmacist in 1910.

In 1910 he was employed by Cyrus H. Bowes drug store in Victoria. He left there to resume employment in Calgary, Alberta. While there he met and married Pauline Gehring in 1919. They resided in Edmonton, Alberta where Mr. Rowland was employed as a druggist. Wishing to have his own business and thinking that Clyde was going to boom, they moved there in 1920 and started the first Drug Store. It was a small building with living quarters above the store. Patent medicines were sold such as cough syrups, chest rubs, liniments and many different kinds of pills. Little dispensing was done as doctors came and went and didn't stay long. Often medicines were exchanged for farm produce such as eggs, butter and chickens. They had many lean years but managed to raise three children: Walter, Vivian and Cecil.

In 1926, Mr. Rowland's father, Mr. J. W. Rowland, of Victoria came to Clyde and purchased a larger building. This was soon renovated and moved into. The main highway and the railways by-passed Clyde and went through Westlock so Clyde didn't grow as anticipated.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowland administered first aid to many when there was no doctor available. It was not





Clyde Drug Store — J. Rowland — Proprietor.

unusual to see patients in beds or on the floor by the wood stove until they could be taken to hospital.

Mr. Rowland was mayor of Clyde in 1927. Mrs. Rowland took part in local functions and the Ladies Aid. Mr. Rowland's greatest joy was playing horse-shoes with his friends, such as Mr. Fred Fricker and Mr. Fitzgerald.

In 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Rowland retired, and son, Walter, now a Pharmacist, carried on the business. Walter served in the Navy and finished his education after World War II, graduating from the University of Alberta. He later moved the drug store to Thorhild, Alberta, where it is still in operation.

A second son, Cecil, served in the Navy and finished his education in Victoria and Toronto, Ontario, where he graduated in Optometry. He has an office in Edmonton where many Clyde residents go to him for eye care.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowland moved to Victoria in 1953, where they resided until 1967. Due to ill health, they returned to Edmonton for their remaining years.

Vivian, their daughter, had an interesting career in the AOS branch of the Air Force during World War II. As an experienced telephone operator from Westlock, she had signed on in this capacity at the Air Force Base in Edmonton. However, she was per-

suaded by another recruit, Agnes Cuthiell, to be transferred to the airplane overhaul service which would be more exciting and challenging. It certainly proved to be challenging! The girls, clad in coveralls and issue boots, were responsible for cleaning and testing every inch of the plane's body. So they got ample scouring experience. But most challenging of all was the test flights when they were taken up by pilots who put these small planes into all sorts of climbs and drops to test their air-worthiness. Vivian recalls going up and through this ordeal in such a state of tension that she pushed her toes through her socks, and came down, according to her O.C., minus her freckles, which had turned green!

### **Crown Jewellery by Al Rousseau**

Graham Walker, a Watchmaker and Optician, was born in Scotland and arrived in Westlock in the early twenties. He was in business in Westlock until the year he died, 1962. The business was sold to Al Rousseau in April, 1962. I called my business "Crown Jewellery", as I had started a small watch repairing shop in the King Edward Hotel building in Edmonton.

I was born in Saskatchewan, was in the Army Postal Corps from 1941-1946, was stationed in Ot-



Graham Walker, Jeweller.  
About 1960.

tawa and Vancouver and on Vancouver Island. In 1943 I went to England with the Corps, returning to Canada in 1946.

I went to school in Saskatoon to pass through high school, then went to the University of Saskatchewan to take Commerce, but I had no patience for figures so I went to Ryerson Institute of Technology in Toronto where I entered the school of watchmaking, and graduated in 1952.

Having the eventual goal of a business of my own I needed experience, so I worked for jewellers in Regina, Vulcan, Stettler and Wainwright, and travelled for a Jewellers' Supply Company in Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

Mr. Walker convinced me that Westlock would be a good place for me. When he lost his health I took over his business. I had \$3500.00 in stock and he had \$3500.00 in stock. This stock was given to me on time with no interest charges — a very generous act on his part. I shall always remember him as giving me my start in Westlock.

Having been in the jewellery business for thirty years, I can truly say it has fulfilled all my plans, and has been enjoyable besides. When I retire I plan to live in Westlock and take time off to smell the roses!

### Westlock Decorating Centre Building

The Building was erected in the summer of 1967 by Lorne Gray, and went under the name of Gray Sheet Metal.

Steve Chemerinski bought the building from Lorne Gray on November 1st, 1973. He partitioned the back of the building, using it as a warehouse. This went under the name of Ed's Electric. The front portion was used by a Mrs. Gardner for the Eaton's Mail Order Catalogue Service. She left and the building was sold.

Peter Borduzak bought the building from Steve

Chemerinski on April 7th, 1976. Mr. Borduzak and his son Todd used it as a sheet metal shop for a short while.

Richard and Mary Moore purchased the building from Peter Borduzak on June 28th, 1977, and they still own it, but have leased it to the present Westlock Decorating Centre, which Company has been operating from there for several years.

### The Dutka Brothers — Plumbing & Heating

by Bev Dutka

When natural gas came to the town of Westlock in the late 1940's, along with it came the need for qualified gasfitters. Vlad Pardely and L. G. Raymond of Vegreville saw this as a good opportunity to set up a shop in Westlock. This thriving little business was called "Westlock Plumbing and Heating Ltd." and was managed by Mr. Pardely's nephew, William Dutka, a newly qualified plumber and gasfitter. The original location of this establishment was across the street from the Memorial Hall in a skating shack.

In the early 1950's two more Dutka brothers, Ray and Mike, joined the firm. In 1953, William bought the company from the original owners and the Dut-



The Dutka Brothers. Top: William and Raymond. Bottom: Mike and Lawrence.



ka's were officially in the plumbing business. By this time a new location had been rented from C. Curlett — across the street from the present Westlock Transport on 107th street. A small shack in the back was "Home Sweet Home" for the Dutka boys. To this day, Ray and Mike recall that first home in Westlock with grins and giggles, remembering the nonsense; the pranks on each other and their friends; and the bittersweet days of learning to batch. That is where Ray learned to fry eggs with the blow torch!

Business in the early fifties was indeed brisk. In addition to the three Dutka brothers, Don (Sid) Bacon was employed and the bookkeeping was done by Lorraine Wilkins Accounting Service.

Before long the business had expanded and the need for a larger place was evident so moving day found the boys on their way to a new location — this time to a building owned by Dr. Whissell on 106 St., next to the building presently occupied by Fields. Again, living quarters were provided in the back of the little shop. By this time Ray and Mike were in the new four year apprenticeship program and each winter they travelled to S.A.I.T. in Calgary for their classroom instructions (N.A.I.T. in Edmonton was not yet in existence). Business was good and about this time a full time office girl was hired. She was Irma Richter (now Mrs. Karl Mueller of Dapp). Irma was often the victim of some of the Dutka pranks, but always remained a good sport about it.

In 1957 William purchased land and built his own building. This was on 107 St., where the bakery and Ice Cream Parlor now stand. Once again living quarters were provided in the back of the shop. The Brooks brothers owned a garage immediately to the east of this shop and the pranks and nonsense that had become synonymus to the three Dutka Brothers was now multiplied by the three Brooks Brothers and the results were phenomenal!! What one bunch couldn't think of the others certainly could. With this friendly rivalry going on constantly the patrons of both establishments were always on the lookout not to be caught in the crossfire of snowballs, water bombs or any other such weapons.

Once he finished his apprenticeship, Mike left Westlock, only to be quickly replaced by yet another Dutka brother, Laurie. Others who worked with the Dutkas at this time were Ron Adkins, Roger Young, Bill Herrick and Don Graham. When Irma left, she was replaced by Lillian Kostyniuk.

Laurie was able to take his apprenticeship here and his classroom studies in the newly built N.A.I.T. in Edmonton.

It is difficult to find homes in this town and community where the Dutkas have not worked and in addition to the work they have done locally, some

other major out-of-town projects have included a major natural gas conversion in the town of Mundare, a hotel in Blackfalds, the Thunderbirds Motel in Red Deer and a main water and sewer supply hookup to the Home Oil camp in Swan Hills.

About this time many changes were made in the personal lives of the Dutka boys. Mike (who was now working in Edmonton) married Doreen Deitrich of the Arvilla area in July of 1959. Raymond married Beverly Bunker of Tawatinaw in April of 1960 and Laurie married Donna VanNatter of Grimshaw in May of 1961.

In 1963 William sold the business to Ray and Laurie. The company name was changed to "Dutka Plumbing and Heating Ltd." and the location was changed to 97 Avenue and 109 Street in Whissell Subdivision. Laurie was now in charge of the office end of things and a new apprentice, Ken Fredrickson, was hired and stayed until he finished his full apprenticeship. Others who worked for Dutka Plumbing & Heating Ltd. were Bernie Hamer, Peter Mik and Carl Renaud.

In 1966, Mike and Doreen and family moved back to Westlock and again the four Dutka Brothers worked together but only for a brief time. The excitement at the Ft. McMurray tarsands project beckoned Mike to its employ.

In 1970 the doors of Dutka Plumbing and Heating Ltd. closed. William passed away. Laurie and his family moved to Yellowknife, N.W.T. and Ray went to work for Volzke Construction, a position that he held for two years.

Customers from the previous twenty years refused to believe that the Dutkas were no longer in the plumbing business and slowly Ray found himself faced with more service calls than he could attend to, in addition to his regular job with Volzke, so in May of 1972 Ray resigned from his job and went back into the plumbing business, this time with his wife, Bev for a partner and bookkeeper. He hired Bev's nephew, Roger Lambie and enrolled him in the apprenticeship program. Now in 1983, Roger is a fully qualified plumber and gasfitter and is still with us. Others who have come and gone are Ron Schmaltz and Robert Humphries (who also obtained his certification while in our employ).

Today, we still operate from the little shop on 97 Avenue, now on a much smaller scale than we once did but still happy to have been of service to the people of this community for nearly thirty-five years.

For a short personal update on the Dutka Brothers:

i. William passed away on August 3, 1970 and is buried with his loving parents in the Riverside cemetery in his hometown of Vegreville.

ii. Mike and Doreen are still in Ft. McMurray and their family consists of Mark (21), Cindy (19) and Leanne (17).

iii. Laurie and Donna live in the Wildwood area and have a family of four children — Wendy (Stubbs) (21), Susan (19), Terry (11) and Gary (9). Plus two grandchildren.

iv. Ray and Bev are still happy to call Westlock “home” and they have two children — Lorina (21) and Murray (19).

### **The History of East Glen Bakery Ltd.**

East Glen Bakery is owned and operated by Dale and Connie Herzog of Clyde. Dale's family of six children lived in Stettler where his father, Lawrence, owned and operated the Bake-Rite Bakery for 6 years. Lawrence has been in the bakery business for over 25 years. Dale apprenticed under his father and achieved his Journeyman Bakers certificate in April, 1972. He then started employment as production manager for Howard Segurdson at the Fort Saskatchewan Bakery. In February of 1974, Mr. Segurdson bought the East Glen Bakery located in the Westlock Shopping Centre, from Peter Emmerling and Henry Laudencas. Dale and his wife Connie, moved to Westlock where he managed the shop until September of the same year. At this time, Dale and his father bought the business from Mr. Segurdson.

The business continued to flourish and in May of 1978, the East Glen Bakery moved to its present location, into a new, Lindahl's owned building, across the street from Lindahl's Supermarket.

As of February of this year, Lawrence has semi-retired and Connie has come into the business as a partner. She had previously been involved as book-keeper and decorator for the past seven years.

Dale and Connie have three children; Richard, eight years old and in grade two; Bradley, six years old in Kindergarten, and Alayne who is three years old. The whole family enjoys camping, hunting, and working in the bakery together.

The East Glen Bakery's motto is “Everything in Baking” and supplies major and small grocery stores and the public, alike, in the Westlock and Barrhead area, and as far north as Peace River. They pride themselves in a fine “homestyle” loaf of bread, and a top line of pastries, donuts, buns and cakes. The regular staff employed is an average of four women, and three bakers. The staff and management of East Glen Bakery look forward to filling your baking needs, large or small.

### **The First Radio Shop in Westlock**

**by Jean Sawyer**

Maurice Lajarise came to Canada in 1919 from Lille, France, after the first world war, at age 17. He arrived in Montreal and worked his way across Canada with his Mother and uncle. His Mother was a concert pianist and his uncle played the violin for concerts for a living.



Jean Lajarise, Bob Brooks, Norma McRae and Myrna Sands, 1944.

They took a homestead at Lunnford in 1922. Maurice drove a supply truck from Belvedere to Edmonton for a while. He then took a job in Westlock at the Ford garage owned by Foster and Harris in the building now owned by Greig Printing.

He married Mari Jones in 1925, who was a teacher. She taught school at Lunnford and Neerlandia. He then operated a garage and power plant at Pickardville for about six years. While there, he took a radio course by correspondence, went to Winnipeg and wrote his examination for his radio licence.



Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Lajarise, 1950.



In June, 1934, he moved to Westlock with his family — Mari (his wife), and children; Jean (now Mrs. Sawyer) and Ellen (now Mrs. Ralph). His third daughter, Maureen (Baker) was born in Westlock in 1937.

He opened the first radio shop, **Westlock Electric**, in June, 1934. It was located where the Datsun dealership is situated on 107th Street. Maurice later built a shop across the street. He serviced radios for miles around Westlock as well as charged batteries, tested tubes, sold power-pack batteries, sold windmills for generating farm electricity, washing machines and all the electrical appliances.

During the second World War he taught the Morse Code to several local boys who worked for him, including Warren Smith, Harry Lane, Watt Stanton, Rolly Sands, Ted Kurtz and Ed Prazak. Some of these boys left to join the forces and some started their own business later. Maurice was a member of the local reserve army in the war years. He sold his business to Garry McGlone in 1955.

Mr. Lajarise passed away in 1965. His wife still lives in Westlock, also his daughter, Jean.

Maureen lives in Edmonton and Ellen in Campbell River, B.C.



Maurice Lajarise in doorway of Harris Garage — now Greig Printing — 1924.

## Flower shops in Westlock

The original Westlock Flower Shop was started by Mrs. Frank Neilson. After her retirement to B.C., the flower shop, as such, no longer existed but the flower agency was handled by a local dress store.

Dagmar's first attempt at a flower shop was selling bedding plants on the sidewalk outside Mr. Cryderman's butcher shop. When she realized \$125.00, she bought the flower agency and rented a small corner from Mrs. Bently's store on main street.

After several successful months of operation, she rented a little shop adjoining the former Red & White Store. Dagmar later opened a shop in the new Curlett Building beside John's Jewellery which she successfully operated until she moved to B.C., selling to Mrs. Rowland and Son of Clyde. They later sold to Mrs. Gordon Gulliford. By now the shop contained gift items as well. The shop changed hands again when Mrs. Marj Sterling purchased it and operated it for several years before selling to Mrs. Ducharme.

Now Westlock boasts another flower shop known as the Flower Barn. As well, there are several greenhouse operations successfully serving Westlock and district filling a considerable demand which is evidenced by the fine landscaped homes about town and the beautiful farmsteads.

## Ford Dealership

Previous to May, 1969, the Ford dealership on Main Street had been closed for six months.

At such time Rex Dawson was interested in locating in Westlock — a town which, from his years of travelling as an Insurance Adjuster — seemed one of the finest in Alberta. Rex moved to Westlock in the summer of 1969 with his wife, Marjory and three of their four daughters. A home in Edmonton, a secure job, disrupting the family were but a few of the sacrifices made.



The first Ford dealership in the Westlock Industrial Park run by Rex Dawson.



Rex Dawson Ford-Mercury body shop.

Ivan Steffansen, Rex's partner, his wife, Anita and two sons arrived from Prince George where Ivan was a body shop foreman.

Trying to obtain the Main Street property was to no avail, as it had been purchased by the Bank of Nova Scotia.

During this time, the old Pembina Motors building on 107 St. became available. Rex and Ivan opened the Dawson-Steffansen Ford-Mercury dealership in May, 1969, in this old building with a staff of six, including themselves.

After seven years these quarters became a bit cramped. In March, 1976, the operation was transferred to Westlock Industrial Park, on the western outskirts of the town. It was the first business to relocate in the new industrial area. The business became known as Rex Dawson Ford Mercury Ltd. Space was now increased to a new 11,000 square feet building on three acres of land — complete with a six-car showroom, parts area, 11-bay service area, employing 24 people. The old Pembina Motors building on 107 St. is now the body shop, which is run under the able supervision of Lorne Boyd.

### **Holyk Super Drug Mart** **by Michael Holyk**

Holyk Drugs, soon to celebrate twenty years of service in Westlock, was opened by pharmacist Michael Holyk on March 14, 1963.

Mike and his wife Kathryn, formerly Kathryn Bott and resident of Westlock in her earlier years, and their son, one year old Bryan moved into Westlock from Edmonton early in 1963 to start the drug store

business. Holyk Drugs (Westlock) Ltd. became a limited company in 1965 with Michael as president and Kathryn as secretary. This same year their second son, Colin was born. The following year the business purchased the building in which it started as a lessee. In the following years business continued to grow and so did the Holyk family with the birth of two more children, daughters Karyn and then Michelle.

In 1972, Holyk Drugs doubled in size to 5,000 square feet occupying the entire building purchased in the earlier years. With that expansion, the business became the largest and most modern drug store in northern Alberta. The pharmacy at Holyk Drugs was further modernized and enhanced by the addition in 1980 of a pharmacy computer for the purposes of prescription processing and recording.

Over the years while operating and building the pharmacy business in Westlock, pharmacist Michael Holyk served in the following capacities and organizations: President, Kinsmen Club; President, Chamber of Commerce; President, Club 200; Chairman, United Church Stewards; Councillor, Town of Westlock; Masonic Lodge and more recently serving a second two year term as councillor on the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association representing Northern Alberta. Michael's wife Kathryn has been and still is involved in various capacities in the Westlock Nurses Chapter, the Westlock United Church and other community affairs.

### **Light**

Light, the wonderful substance that dispels darkness for us, we take it almost for granted until it is not there.

Our grandmothers worked by candle light and kerosene lamps and a gallon of kerosene was precious. But the earnest desire to have better lighting had roused the pioneers of Westlock district to keep up with the times.

In the early years coal oil lamps and lanterns were the order of the day. Next came Alladin lamps and pressure gas lamps and lanterns.

In 1929 the first of the gas-powered lighting plants made its debut in Westlock. Modern electric lighting was something everyone hoped for. It mattered not that the gas engine had to be started every night to charge the batteries. The light was bright and beautiful. The shadowy corners of our rooms were slowly vanishing.

Today, in 1983, it is Calgary Power that lights our farms and town. Only when the power fails do we think of the old coal oil lamp that stands on the shelf ready for the emergency. Then we are still thankful for the faithful stand-by.



## The Liquor Store

by Dave Turner

The original liquor store was situated on 106 Street where Holyk's Drugs is now located. It opened in 1952 with Daryl Anderson as the first manager.

J. S. Simard came in as manager in November, 1955. The following year Jim Bjordal took over the management and he stayed until 1962.

In September of 1962, the store was moved to its present location on 107th Street, but not into the building that is being used now. Carl Huff was the manager from May 1962 until his retirement in August, 1980 when Ernest Pederson took over the running of the store.

About that time it was decided the premises were not suitable for the amount of business that was being transacted so the old building was renovated to become the spacious ALCB building it is now. Temporary facilities were used during the period of renovation, which was about a year. The present store was opened in September, 1981.

## The Massey (Harris) Ferguson Story 1939-1964

by Ethelyn Glover

To have a farm of our own was our goal, when Bill and I married and settled on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ -24-59-1-W5, in the Hazel Bluff district. Little did we think then that in nine years later we would attempt a new venture.



Bill Glover shovelling snow in front of his business office.

The economic depression, better known as the "dirty thirties" created many hardships as we struggled to survive. Neighbors (and super ones they were) became one big family; we were all in the same

boat then, getting nowhere. We made our own entertainment, highlighted by the monthly meeting of our Community Club. We met in different homes, those which were large enough to hold the crowd. Then, there were our local dances, often times in the home of Ernie Stanton and his wife, or in the log building at Mr. and Mrs. Herb Cross. What fun times they were! The dance halls throughout the country were always crowded; admission twenty-five cents, with lunch provided. Dancing went on till the wee hours of the morning, and those providing the music certainly earned their money, usually \$1.50 each. Bill, together with Nard Shaver, Watt Stanton and Newell Moulton, played for dances for many years, even after we left the farm.



Bill Glover, 1943, with shipment of tractors.



Bill Glover with a shipment of Massey Harris tractors, 1940, his first year's tractor sales.

We had our happy times and our times of sorrow, with the loss of our only child and Bill's mother. Again, our wonderful neighbors helped us through our sorrow. All was not gloom, for there were many amusing incidents along the way. One I recall most vividly and will never forget, was the time we were building a rail fence around an area that was to be our sheep pasture. A ground fire had left many large holes throughout the area, and at this particular time,

the holes were filled with water. Fencing across these holes was quite a trick, for it was I who would have to stand on the bottom rail, holding the next one in place, while Bill nailed the ends to the fence posts. One time my feet slipped and I dove head first into a deep water-filled hole. When I resurfaced my sun hat was floating nearby, and Bill was doubled up with laughter. Though I never could swim, he always maintained that I made a perfect dive.

We milked cows, raised pigs, sheep, chickens, turkeys, geese, etc., in hopes of getting ahead financially. After much consideration, Bill thought he would like to try a business of his own. With mixed feelings, we gave up the farm — Don Baker took it over and still resides there.

World War II had just broken out, and the economic conditions were brighter. The father and son (names forgotten) who had the Massey-Harris dealership, wanted out. This was just what Bill would like, as he was a born salesman. The proceeds from our farm Auction Sale were not enough to swing the deal, so what do we do now? At this time Tom Golder decided to quit farming, so he and Bill, by pooling their resources and forming a partnership, were able to close the deal. As soon as the contract was formally signed, the young lad stepped up to Bill and called into his ear "Sucker." This did make Bill wonder, for he was already going against advice from family and friends. Undaunted, he and Tom were now the new Massey-Harris Implement Dealers for Westlock and surrounding areas. Working under the name of "Golder & Glover" they turned the business into a flourishing one. Two years later the partnership was dissolved and Bill took over Tom's equity. At last; a dream come true. Bill had a business of his own!

We settled in to work hard and determined to be



Ethelyn Glover with baby Harvey at their first home, 1932.

successful. The days and hours became longer, as many sales were made after the shop closed. How blest Bill was to have had good health, much ambition, and a keenness to learn and become involved in other activities — he was a born workaholic.

His dream of becoming a pilot and owning his own aeroplane was becoming a reality. A farm one mile north of town, then owned by George Beach, (now Goldnick's) was to become the training ground for Westlock's first pilots; eight receiving their licenses to fly. Later, Dr. Whissell, donated land for a run-way, north of the N.A.R. tracks. Many young pilots received their training here. There were times when Bill was able to help a stranded farmer by flying in needed repairs. If unable to land, he would swoop in low and drop the repairs, thus enabling the farmer to get his machine rolling again, with little loss of time. Next came the motorcycle (another dream fulfilled) and this too, was used in the business, as well as providing us with many memorable trips.

The company's name was now changed from Massey-Harris to Massey-Ferguson. Joy LeBeau had become an employee, a competent and faithful one for twenty-one years. This allowed Bill more time to become involved locally, though always keeping abreast of his own business. For many years he served as a director with the Alberta Implement Dealer's Association. He was a member of the first formed Board of Trade (now the Chamber of Commerce) and served several years on Town Council. Being in charge of the Water Department, he was instrumental, through dogged effort, in getting water piped from the Pembina River when Westlock's own water supply was critically low. He helped organize the Rotary Club — a most active group — and served one term as president. Through their efforts, harness racing was brought to Westlock for the first time. This involved many hours of volunteer labour in constructing the stables. As a member of the Masonic Lodge for many years, he was to receive a Life Membership the day after his death; a proud moment not to be realized.

Retirement age was now approaching, and with twenty-five years of managing a successful implement business, it was time to give up the hard work and turn to something more leisurely. So, with the completion of an auction sale, the doors were locked, ending another phase in our lives. We never looked back with any regrets.

Still abounding with energy, Bill opened a real estate office; that, too, ran successfully for nine years. Now was the time to fulfill another dream by owning an Airstream Trailer — a home on wheels. We had many exciting trips in this conveyance.



Following a winter's holiday in Arizona, Bill's health began to fail. His last years were spent enjoying home life. He passed away in September 1980, another era ended.

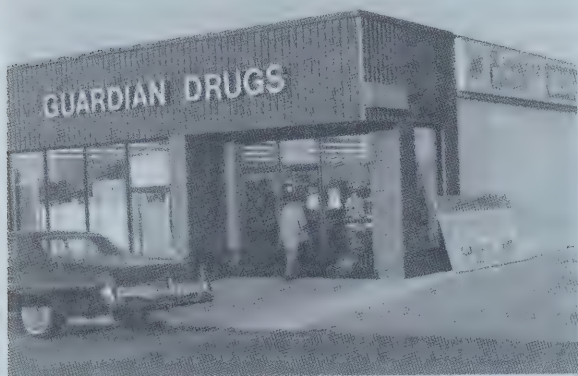
I still reside in our Westlock home.

## Medicine Bottle Drug Mart

The history behind the present day Medicine Bottle Drug Mart dates back to 1918.

The Westlock Drug Store was the oldest drug-store in town and became associated with many prominent citizens. Names such as Dr. Marsden, who was the first veterinarian in the district, Dr. Geddes and Dr. Phillips can be seen on the prescription slips.

Dr. Geddes started the Westlock Drug Store in 1918 and was there until 1923. A. R. McEwen took over from 1923 to 1929 and D. M. Torrie from 1929 to 1951. Mr. A. R. (Bob) Sutherland came to Westlock in 1928 and worked in the drugstore from 1934



New Guardian Drug Store — Westlock. Norman Kitz, Proprietor.

until 1951 when he gained ownership from Mr. D. M. Torrie. In the early 1960's Pat Stiles became associated with the Westlock Rexall Drugs. He was with them until 1972. In 1972 the store was purchased by Mr. Michael Field of Mayerthorpe and operated under the management of Mr. Norm Kitz.

Mr. Norm Kitz obtained his apprenticeship at King Drug in Vegreville prior to completion of his training at the University of Alberta. Norm took a year off after completing his university to tour Europe, the Far East, Asia, the Orient, Australia and New Zealand. He returned to marry Anita de la Salle of Vegreville.

After four years as pharmacist in Griesbach Drugs in Edmonton, Norm and family moved to Westlock in 1972 to operate the Westlock Rexall Drug Store, under the new name of Medicine Bottle

Pharmacy. The premises soon expanded and became known as the Medicine Bottle Drug Mart.

Mr. Kitz is in partnership with a twelve store Medicine Bottle Group, operating throughout northern Alberta. The Westlock business has grown from one-pharmacist and two-staff store to today's pharmacy with two additional pharmacists.

As Westlock continued to grow, in 1978 with the expansion of the Westlock Shopping Centre, another Medicine Bottle Drug Mart was opened and is operating seven days a week. This store is known as the Medicine Bottle Guardian Drugs.

## A. Miller Farm Equipment Ltd.

A. Miller Farm Equipment Ltd opened its doors for business in January of 1964, with a staff of five. It purchased the John Deere Machinery dealer franchise.

(The first John Deere machinery dealer in Westlock, was George Dunlop. He was succeeded by



Randal Lecky, 1941.

Frank Merryweather, who held the dealership for about 25 years, ending in 1963. They both operated out of the premises in Westlock at 9948-107 St., now occupied by A&B Hardware Ltd.)

A Miller Farm Equipment opened a Service Center in Barrhead, in May, 1970, to better serve that sales area. We now have a combined working staff of thirty six.

By the middle of 1981, one of our customers was presented with a plaque for his purchase of the 600th big agricultural tractor from our premises.

Recreation snowmobiles and lawn and garden equipment are also among our products, for customer needs.

A major branch line of automotive — Chrysler and Dodge vehicles, was carried from 1965 to 1981. It was then sold to Brown Plymouth Chrysler Ltd, to accommodate the increased need for space and sales for farm machinery products.



Haying, 1980.

The years have seen large additions to the building facilities at both Westlock and Barrhead. It was needed, with a growth rate of 260% in sales between 1964-1970, and of 125% in sales between 1970 to 1982.

The owners of A. Miller Farm Equipment Ltd, are well known area farmers, Albert and Alex Miller.

The Westlock area and surrounding districts have a rich potential in good farmers and agricultural growth. And we, as the staff of A. Miller Farm Equipment Ltd, are glad to be able to serve and grow with them.

### **Pembina Farmers Seed Cleaning Association Ltd.**

Co-operative seed cleaning had its origins in this area in 1942. Central Seed Growers Co-operative had a small plant under the direction of Edgar G. Wood.

In 1948, plans began to take shape to build a new larger facility. Pembina Farmers Seed Cleaning Association was incorporated under the Co-operatives Branch in 1949.

The first share certificate, for two shares, was issued to Carl Antonson on October 18, 1949. Mrs. Antonson has kindly donated these shares back to the Association, and the certificate is on the wall of the reception area at that plant.

The first Board of Directors were Fred Casavant (Chairman), Jim Jarvis (Vice-chairman), E. W. Stutchbury (Secretary-Treasurer), Bill Ross (District Agriculturalist), Alois Zaczkowski, Frank Armstrong and Owen Piers.

The Plant, located at the northeast end of elevator row, was opened for business in September 1949.

Wilson Spragge, who had been operating a private plant at Camrose, was hired as manager, and Ralph Campo was his assistant. Mr. Spragge was manager for two seasons.

The official opening was held at the end of October 1949, with David Ure, then Minister of Alberta Agriculture, cutting the ribbon.

Mr. Strange, President of Searle Grain, was the guest speaker. Unfortunately, Fred Casavant, who had done most of the work involved in the planning and building of the plant, passed away shortly before the official opening.

Jim Jarvis took over as chairman of the board. When Wilson Spragge resigned as manager, to go to work for the School Division, Wilf Backman took over for a short time. When Mr. Backman left, Jim Jarvis resigned as chairman, and took over as manager for two years, Art Legg and Art Fortin were hired as assistants. Art Legg took over as manager when Jim Jarvis left to go into business, Art Legg was manager for twenty-five years. When he retired, Harvey Clark took over for a short time, followed by Elmer Arneson for two years, Gerald Godwin for two years, and Jim Gamble, the present manager for one year.

The plant burned down March 8, 1975, and a new larger facility was built in Industrial Park, and was back in operation by the fall of that same year.

The current Board of Directors are Dave Cross (Chairman), Peter Warwaryck (Vice-chairman), Alan Hall (District Agriculturalist), Frank Greenfield, Glynne Jones, Sid Glebe, Art Lyons, Russ Kostiwi and Reg Stephens.

### **History of Pembina U.F.A. Co-operative Association Ltd.**

Incorporated September 3rd, 1931 under title of Pembina U.F.A. Constituency Co-operative Association Ltd.

First organizational meeting held at Rossington, July 8th, 1931, attended by delegates from ten U.F.A. Locals plus about fifteen other visitors. The men elected to serve as trustees on the first Board were George MacLachlan, Clyde; H. Critchlow, Barrhead; P. S. Beatt, Westlock; J. C. Forbes of Willow Bank Local, J. Messimer, Naples; J. Reidford of Heaten Moore, J. Chileen, Freedom. Other U.F.A. local delegates attending were J. Smith, Dapp; E. Thompson, Sunnied; James Cameron, Hazel Bluff. The Secretary appointed at that time was P. R. Hooper.

The Association was formed initially to handle binder twine sales, but soon were selling oils and greases, car-lot loads of apples and later coal etc. It





First Co-op building, 1931. Jack Edgson standing at extreme right.

has been said that the original capital raised to become engaged in business was only about \$120.00. The membership at the first meeting decided to have Westlock as Head Office but this was soon changed to Barrhead where it remained for some years.

On November 1st, 1939 a change of name was registered to "Pembina U.F.A. Co-operative Association Ltd." Sometime after that the head office was moved to Westlock, perhaps for convenience as George MacLachlan was now Secretary and had been for three years. During this period R. C. Ponting, Westlock Agent since 1933, was actively involved and in 1940 he became Manager of the Association and in 1962 with the passing of Mr. MacLachlan also assumed the duties of the Secretary, these two positions were held by him until his death in 1973. In 1973 Brian Gray took over as Secretary-Manager and Mr. Lyle Leyh as Assistant Manager.

In the beginning the Association carried out its sales through the U.F.A. locals; e.g. the electoral districts of Pembina U.F.A., gradually this developed into an agency system. With the purchase of the Maple Leaf Petroleum Company in 1957 jointly



After Co-op Implements building was destroyed by fire.

by the U.F.A. Co-operative Limited, Calgary and other District Co-operatives including Pembina an adequate supply of petroleum products was now assured. This arrangement not only resulted in better service to the members but also an increased savings on purchases which was the objective of the Association from the beginning.

In 1956, the year of its silver anniversary, the Association had grown from a simple beginning of only \$120.00 capital and twenty-four members to nearly two thousand members and about \$80,000.00 in assets. The Directors at this time were; George MacLachlan, P. S. Beatt, J. Reidford, Chas. Watson, Gilmore O'Brien, James Cameron and Frank Edgson, most of whom were original founding members. These and other dedicated members were to continue to bolster the growth of the Association, guiding it wisely as the years progressed. In 1981, the year of our Golden Anniversary, Pembina has continued to grow with assets totalling almost Two Million and a membership in excess of Twenty-Five hundred. The present board members are Ivan Watson, President, Clare Anderson, Vice President, Brian Gray, Secretary-Manager and Lyle Leyh Assistant Manager; Directors; Albert Steinburg, Arlington Corbett, Fenner Clark, Earl Brown and Gilbert Pollard.

### Pickardville Lumber Yard by Albert Smith

The lumber yard was built and opened for business by the "P. Manning Lumber Co." of south Edmonton in July 1930, with my Father Richard Smith, as manager.



The old office 1930 to 1981.



The new office 1981.

The yard property was bought by Pierre Deshoux in 1938 and he supplied the spruce lumber from his mill at Flatbush. My Father supplied the rest of the building material and sold the spruce on a commission.

My Father passed away in July 1945. I purchased his interest from the estate and operated the yard until 1949 when Mr. Pierre Deshoux discontinued his milling operations at Flatbush. At this time I purchased the property and continued the yard on my own until September 1978. At this time I sold the business to Mr. Chuck Fisher, the present owner.



Pioneer Store in Picardville.

## Renaud's Hardware by Paul Renaud

Westlock Hardware was purchased by J. P. Renaud and W.A.C. Bennett on February 14, 1927. This partnership was dissolved in 1931 and Joe Renaud carried on alone. This store sold farmers hardware and some furniture. It featured a tin shop and an oil agency — North Star Oil. This oil company sold William Penn oils and greases. These products were delivered in forty-five gallon drums by the firm's two delivery trucks — a 1929 1-ton Model A Ford and a 1930 G.M.C. 1-ton. The drivers were Jim Wallace and "Chop" Manning.

During these early years the old store, which is now a section of the A&M Store, was heated with a cast iron, coal fired, "Station Agent" heater located in the centre of the store. Many town meetings and card games were held around this heater. Although money was scarce, friendship was plentiful.

During the 1940's, Joe Renaud took on the Allis Chalmers farm machine agency. A new style, small two-plow tractor and a small combine were introduced. Later, the Cockshutt Plow Co. needed a new agent. Again J. P. Renaud was asked to take this on. They also introduced a larger pull-type combine and a fifty streamlined six-cylinder tractor called the Cockshutt 70.

When the war ended, Paul returned from service with the tactical air force in Europe and Raymond from service in the R.C.A.F.

In 1946 the family store staff consisted of J. P. Renaud, Rudy, Paul, Raymond, Andy and Armand. Expansion was a must. The adjoining buildings containing Clarks Cafe and the garage operated by Bo St. John, Ted Leake and John Schmidt were purchased. These buildings were demolished and the present brick and stucco building was constructed over a full area basement. Local labour was used at all times, with Wilfred Holt, Bill Allen and Floyd Baldwin doing most of the work. J. P. Renaud supervised and made sure of strength and the use of extra nails, a genuine hardware product in those days. A steam boiler was installed, which was used to heat all the stores to and including the Rexall Drug Store. Many tons of coal and ashes were handled by the Renaud boys until the year 1952 when natural gas was used to fire the boiler.

This hardware was known to be one of the largest in rural Alberta at that time — and never stocked food or clothing!

J. P. Renaud & Sons operated as a Marshall Wells store for several years, then as one of the first twelve Link Hardware stores in Alberta. They helped to expand the firm to Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. This dealer-owned hardware company



lasted until it joined Home Hardware Co. to become the largest hardware chain operating from coast to coast in Canada.

Renaud's Hardware is the oldest retail business still operating in Westlock. It spans 55 years of continuous service and is presently operated by Raymond Renaud and Sons.

## **Saddle and Tack Shop**

**by Alice L. Koenig**

The A. L. Saddle and Tack Shop, owned and operated by Alice L. Koenig, moved to its present location at 10108-107 St. in Westlock in May of 1977. The property had been purchased by Jerry Demers of Demelco Ltd., who remodeled it suitably to be used for a retail outlet.

The A. L. Saddle and Tack Shop carries a full line of Tack, Saddles and accessories, grooming supplies and Western Apparel; Tandy leather crafts and kits, Master Feeds complete feeds and supplements.

## **U F A Farm Supply, Westlock**

**by Terry Semeniuk**

For many years, Sarden Semeniuk, delegate for the United Farmers of Alberta for the Westlock area and his advisory members were working on convincing the Co-operative that the Westlock area would support a farm supply outlet.

On May 31, 1966, United Farmers of Alberta opened an outlet in Westlock, making it the 11th in the province. Thanks to the support from over 1400 local area farmers and ranchers, who attended the official opening, a sales record was set for the highest single day's sales. The Eastburg and Westlock Farm Women's Union of Alberta served hundreds of dozens of doughnuts and gallons of coffee and pop that day.

The original staff consisted of Walt Bulva, branch manager, Harry Melnychuk, customer service supervisor, and Terry Semeniuk, customer sales representative.

The Westlock Farm Supply outlet quickly exceeded sales expectations due to the excellent member support, so major expansions took place in subsequent years both in additional land and additional storage space. A larger showroom was also acquired and the number of staff increased.

Other branch managers since Walt Bulva were Ken Croskery; Terry Semeniuk, presently South Region Manager for the Farm Supply Division; Willie Trefiak, presently manager of the Red Deer Farm Supply and Keith Conquergood, the present manager. Other long term Westlock employees were Harry Melnychuk, presently customer sales repre-

sentative at Two Hills; Ken Jendrick, presently customer service supervisor at Westlock; Zeffie Campo, presently cashier at Westlock and Ron Rimmer who is now manager of the Vermilion Farm Supply.

Other U F A delegates after Sarden Semeniuk were Herb Plain of Pibroch, Louis Paquette of Westlock and at present Nolan Van Nieuvenhuysen of Pibroch.

Thanks to the excellent support from the area member owners, the Westlock Farm Supply outlet is now in the three million dollar sales range and will continue to supply members with the best quality cost of production items at the best possible price.

## **The United Grain Growers at Westlock**

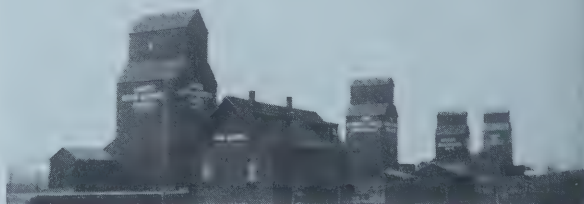
**prepared by D. H. Fraser.**

### **Early Elevators at Westlock.**

Westlock first appears as a grain delivery point on the Edmonton, Dunvegan and B.C. Railway in the 1917-18 crop year with U.G.G. as the only elevator on the market.

Although the elevator is first listed as U.G.G., it was built by the Alberta Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company in late 1916 and became U.G.G. with the amalgamation of the two farmers companies in August 1917.

Home Grain Company built in 1919, Topper Grain Company in 1923, Alberta Pacific in 1924, Alberta Pool in 1927 and Midland & Pacific in 1928 to make six elevators in total.



Elevator Row, Pickardville.

In 1929 the rail line changed its name from the Edmonton, Dunvegan and B.C. Railway to Northern Alberta Railways. Home Grain became Searle and Topper Grain became Federal Grain in 1931.

### **United Grain Growers Elevators.**

The 1917 elevator was in use for many years. It was re-modelled in 1940 and two small temporary annexes added. A new 60,000 bushel elevator was

built beside it in September, 1952, with the old plant re-modelled again to function as a twin. In this period, boxcars were allocated on a basis of shipping spouts and it was advantageous to license old properties as functional elevators.

At some point later it was converted to an annex. In July, 1972, the old elevator and the two temporary annexes were torn down to be replaced by a new 116,000 bushel cribbed annex beside the 1952 plant.

The second U.G.G. site came by purchase of the Pioneer Grain Company elevator in July, 1969. This would appear to have been the old Topper Grain Company plant built in 1922 or 1923. No doubt, it had been remodelled or rebuilt at some point over the intervening years.



United Grain Growers float in the Westlock Fair Parade.

## Elevator Managers

L. H. Campbell	1917 to July 21/32
(Starting date not recorded but believed to be the first manager).	
P. W. Shepherd	July 21/32 to May 13/38
H. Bishop	May 13/38 to Aug. 11/44
M. M. Watt	Aug. 11/44 to May 29/66
Wm. Smart	May 29/66 to Aug. 4/77
Paul R. Suchow	Aug. 4/77 to May 17/79
John Dixon	May 17/79 to Feb. 26/80
Tom Mumby	Feb. 26/80 to July 10/81
Rick McNally	July 10/81 to Nov. 18/81
Ken McRae	Nov. 18/81 to present (1983)

## Local Board

The Alberta Farmers' Cooperative Elevator Company by-laws provided that an elevator would be built in any area where the farmers organized by sale of a minimum of 134 shares to a total value of \$8,040.

Request was then made to the company for official status as a Local. After certification, application could then be made to the Province of Alberta for a grant to build the elevator.

The Westlock Local was certified September 1, 1916. Delegates to the November 15, 1916 annual meeting of the Alberta Farmers Cooperative were A. R. Brown of Westlock and G. E. Stanton of Hazel Bluff.

A main topic of discussion at the 1916 meeting was the proposed amalgamation of the Alberta Farmers Cooperative and the Grain Growers Grain Company. The Board of Directors were given the authority to proceed with plans and the two farmers' companies became one as the United Grain Growers Limited in August, 1917. Herbert Greenfield was chairman, and directors were John A. Edgson, Archie R. Brown and Henry Hide. James William Shutt became secretary. Delegates elected for the 1916 meeting were Herbert Greenfield and George Eggar Stanton. Apparently A. R. Brown replaced Mr. Greenfield.

It is unusual to note lady shareholders in those early days but Westlock had two: Mrs. Louisa McEachern and Mrs. E. G. Stanton, the latter elected to the 1918-1919 Board.

A second item of interest is a share held in the name of the Duke of Sutherland, per Gordon Tainsh, Manager, Hay Creek.

## Pickardville

The first U.G.G. elevator built at Pickardville was built in 1928. The second was added by purchase of the Gillespie Grain Company in February, 1943. Both elevators were sold to Federal Grain August 13, 1968.

## Elevator Managers

J. F. Gleeson	July 18/28 to March 12/29
(closed for a period)	
G. B. Atkinson	Aug. 9/29 to Dec. 15/29
J. L. Lavasseur	Aug. 7/30 to May 21/31
W. L. Stewart	May 21/31 to Aug. 11/32
D. S. Orton	Aug. 11/32 to May 18/37
T. Frank Gwartney	May 18/37 to Feb. 10/42
Harry S. Mayo	Feb. 10/42 to July 17/56
M. M. Thomson	July 17/56 to June 22/67
(operated both elevators after July, 1956)	
Wm. Shephka	June 22/67 to July 12/67
Edward Ushko	July 12/67 to Oct. 1/67
Ronald Wrawa	Oct. 1/67 to Aug. 1/68
(elevator sold)	

George Lawley was buying for Gillespie at time of purchase in 1943 and continued to July 17, 1956 when both were placed under M. M. Thomson.

## Westlock Appliances by Gerry McGlone

The building now owned by Westlock Appliances was originally built by Mr. Maurice Lajarise and was called Westlock Electric. Maurice was an excellent radio repair man and a good friend to all who knew him. The chief carpenter during the construction of the building was Mr. George Dieffenbaugh, who finished the work in 1943-44.

A portion of the building, to the west, was occupied first by Calgary Power and later by Gray Sheet Metal, Bacon Plumbing and Westlock Glass.



Mr. Lajarise sold the building in 1958 to Mr. John McCallum, an auto dealer, and it was purchased by Westlock Appliances in 1959. They are still carrying on the business there at the present time. In 1976 a 1200 square foot addition was added at the rear of the original building.

### The Westlock Feed Mill

The Westlock Feed Mill was built in 1948. It was later taken over by Gordon Albright and Armand Theberge, who ran it for a number of years.

They sold out to Albert and Gordon Lamble in December, 1964.



Feed Mill Owners — Pictured above, L to R: Gordon Lamble and Albert Lamble, brother proprietors of Westlock Feed Mill Ltd. Both formerly lived at Thorhild and Tawatinaw.



Westlock Feed Mill — Pictured above is Westlock Feed Mill which has just undergone extensive renovations, outside and inside.

It was again sold in 1970 to Mitch Kiejko, who operated it until it burned down in 1980.

That same year Champion Feed Services Ltd. built their new mill over in the Industrial Park on the west side of Westlock. They had their grand opening March 17-21, 1980. The manager was Gary Colby and assistant manager Lou Prefontaine.

### Westlock Funeral Home Ltd.

by Bev Dutka

To the best of our knowledge, Westlock Funeral Home has been serving the needs of families in the Westlock area for somewhere in the neighborhood of sixty years. We have been unable to obtain any definite data regarding the establishment of Westlock Funeral Home but it is believed that a gentleman referred to as "Farmer" Steel was the first official funeral director, or better known then as an undertaker, in the Westlock area, probably in the early 1920's. His business was later taken over by James (Jimmy) Hunter who also operated a hardware store here in Westlock. In the very late forties or early fifties the business was sold to Harry Peter. Some of Mr. Peter's books, dating back to 1953 are still available and the following statistics were obtained from these early records. Besides operating the "Funeral Parlour" Mr. Peter supplied an ambulance service, and here is an example of the prices of the fifties.



The old building used until 1973, and was then moved to Thorhild.

A lady who lived here in town was charged a fee of \$3.50 for an ambulance trip to the local hospital. In 1956 the fee for a trip to Edmonton was \$25.00.

Statistics from the year 1959 indicate that Westlock Funeral Home handled 90 funerals in various locations throughout the municipality. Surprisingly, that figure is quite comparable with the number of families now being served by this same establishment. In 1959 the average funeral cost around \$300.00. Records show that three men: — George Miller, Harry East and Hugh Johnson were paid \$1-\$1.50 per hour for part time help. Westlock Cartage, owned by Freeman Wood, charged \$4.00 to open and close a grave at Tawatinaw.

Again we are not sure when the first building was erected on the present location but records indicate that extensive remodelling was done in 1955.

In 1956, Ron Johnson, a native Jarvieite, began working at the funeral home with Mr. Peter. Following Mr. Peter's death, Ron purchased the business from Mrs. Peter in 1960. In 1969, Ron hired Bob Jones from Clyde to assist him. In 1973 a major building project was undertaken. The old original building was moved to its present location in the village of Thorhild, where Dave and Mary Yachemic had been serving as agents for the Westlock office. The new building was officially opened in February 1974. Ron chose to retire in 1980 and moved to



Westlock Funeral Home Ltd. 1983.

British Columbia. The business was then sold to Bob and Betty Jones who currently own and operate it, assisted by a second funeral director, Betty's brother, Dave Anderson. The Thorhild agency is still operated by Mary Yachemic.

In addition to the funeral needs, a modern and efficient ambulance service is available to the people of this community. Randy Mrochuk, trained in emergency medical treatment, is currently on ambulance staff and Bev Dutka works part time as a funeral assistant.

### **Westlock Home Furnishers Ltd. Formerly Ed's Electric Ltd.**

In 1946, Ed Prazak started a radio and appliance repair and service shop, which he operated from his home. One year later, he moved into a building on main street (10623-100 Ave.) which was owned by Dr. Sands. In the early 1950's, the business was expanded to include television and appliance sales and service, and electrical contracting.

The company was incorporated as Ed's Electric Ltd., in March, 1958.

July 13, 1964, the business was sold to its present owners, Steve and Allyson Chemerinski, who moved to Westlock from Fairview, Alberta.

As the Town of Westlock and surrounding area prospered, it became necessary to expand the size of

the building to accommodate more display area. The building now occupied by Westlock Home Furnisher's Ltd., was built in two stages:

In January 1966, the adjoining Shoe Repair building and property (North) was purchased from D. M. Torrie, and the north side of the present building was completed in 1969. Ed's Electric then, moved into the newly constructed premises, and at this time, expanded into the sale of furniture. The old portion of the building was rented to the Den Sport Shop.

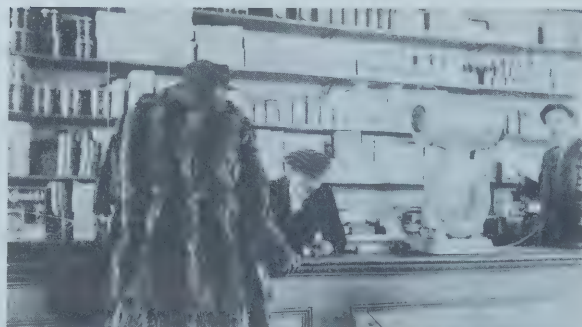
The second stage of construction began in 1974. The portion of the building occupied by The Den Sport Shop, was dismantled and the existing building was extended south to its present size.

The electrical contracting portion of the business was liquidated in 1976.

In 1977, two and one-half acres of land was purchased in the Westlock Industrial Park, and a 6000 sq. ft. warehouse (9316-110A St.) was completed in 1978.

As the services of the company changed from its original concept, it was necessary to change the name of the company from Ed's Electric Ltd. to Westlock Home Furnishers Ltd. (1978). This was a change in name only, as owners, management and staff have remained the same.

## **General Clyde Businesses**



Nickerson's store at Clyde. Mr. Murray making bill, Harry Douglas at right and Dan Maloney in fur coat.



Wiedrick's store — Clyde, 1912.





Knud Olsen holding chair. Mr. Beauchamp in the buggy. In the democrat (Stage Coach) is a Legasse boy and two passengers from Edmonton. Holding wheel is Louis Legasse, driver of the democrat. In the background is a salesman from Edmonton, selling furniture etc. He is holding a crated window.



In front of Destruel Garage at Clyde. Four McLaughlan-Buicks, one Overland and one Starr.



Standing, L to R: Owen Jones, Stuart MacLachlan, ?, The cook, Art Edgson. Seated: Elmer Edgson, ?, Don MacLachlan, Brad Saylor, George MacLachlan.



Clyde notables on the station platform. Front row: Train crew, Mr. Savage (Station Agent) wearing bow tie. Back row: (wearing hat) behind Mr. Savage, P. G. Davies; slightly in front of him, John Groombridge (section foreman). Far back: Mr. Rowland (Druggist), Mr. F. Niklewitz (meat dealer): wearing glasses Norman Finch (lumberyard Proprietor). Other unidentified.

## General Westlock Businesses



Archie Ashby and Children on milk route in the early 1920's.



Service Station at Vimy Corner — 1951. Yolande Pelletier and daughter Simone standing in front of the building.



Greig Printing and Stationery.



Wheatley's Garage. First brick building in Westlock, 1917.



Tip-Top Tailors, Arthur Bentley's made-to-measure clothing store, 1936.





Joe Roch's bakery — 1918.



Wagners Dairy milk wagon — 1939. L to R: Grant and Joe Wagner.



Roch's bakery.



J. E. Hunter Hardware, 1930's. Jimmy Hunter and Harry Peter.



Ray Hide's Garage, 1945. This garage burned down in 1947.



Westlock's first milk delivery cart 1920. Dios Smith with sons Ray and Warren.



Nu-Way Stores in 1934, managed by S. A. Lindahl.



P. Burns & Co. Ltd., Westlock Creamery. William Gilchrist, unknown, Archie Ashby.



Farmers Supply and Trading Ltd., Westlock.



Westlock Hotel.



Westlock Community Thrift Shop, 105 St. and 3rd Ave. Originally School Division Office, the school and town library, and eventually occupied by Salvation Army Rural Service Unit. At one time this building was located where the Legion Hall now stands.





## A Tribute to Stan Munro Having Served as Busby Postmaster for 32 Years

by Mary Rector

When in 1951 from the Post Office Bill Elliott resigned

Stan Munro, a veteran of the Air Force Band smiled and said

“Ha! Ha! His job is now mine!”

Then into his house the office he moved;

Good thinking, you must admit,

For when he got busy and running behind

His wife, Lenore, could help quite a bit.

With a family of five and wages quite low,

He diligently worked to survive,

For Post Office hours, he quickly did learn,

Didn't run just from eight until five.

The mail came at night on the old N.A.R.

At seven — if it wasn't late.

It then had to be sorted, and patrons, you know,

Can be owly when they have to wait.

Being patient is not always easy,

But cheerful is much harder still,

And Stan found he was blamed if cheques came in late,

Or if some folks received only bills.

When boxes he fills with junk mail galore,

With a growl and a curse it is thrown on the floor.

The look he then gets says, “You've nothing to do

And bending, they say, is so good for you!”



Postal Inspectors, when they've come out of town  
Really could get poor old Stan down;  
Snapping their orders and making demands,  
Worse than Sergeant Majors in the Air Force Band.

But time has brought many changes

Mail now is delivered by truck;

Postal Inspectors are truly fine fellows,

Stan says that's sure his good luck.

But as he stands at his wicket,

He's blasted when postage goes up!

And folks ask, “Does mail come by dog sled?

Its too slow to be coming by truck.”

With a smile he has carried out his duties,

Even with sickness he has asked for no rest;

With help from his wife and his family,

For thirty two years they have given their best.

Now we have come to the end of an era,

From postal work our friend Stan has resigned;

He'll now be free to go fishing

Or do whatever else comes to mind.

Financially, things are much better

And with the family now down to nil

He and Lenore can really start living,

For he's sure not “over the hill.”

Yes, for thirty two years he's been postmaster

But also a good neighbor and friend,

And he leaves with all our best wishes

For good fortune that never will end.



# Churches and Organizations

## **Westlock Community Church of Christ** by Jackie Laun

On September 23, 1973 eight adults gathered together to worship. Margaret Hanlan, Lilian Gault, Bill Gault, Hugh and Esther Fraser, and Gordon and Sharan Fraser met in Jacqueline Claude's apartment. These individuals sought to worship in the New Testament pattern, free from denominational ties. So began the Community Church of Christ in Westlock, Alberta.

The congregation continued to grow, with children, grandchildren and friends coming. In June, 1974, Miss Claude moved into a mobile home and continued to open it for congregational worship. Attendance records were not kept during the early years but there must have been 15 to 18 attending for the latter part of 1974.

February, 1975, saw Leroy and Karan Riley and their three sons move to Westlock to assume ministerial duties for the growing congregation. With five more in attendance, the facilities were becoming crowded, so in April of 1975 the congregation began meeting in the Westlock Senior High School library. By December, 1975, the average attendance was 26, with a record 43 present for the Christmas program. 1975 also saw the first wedding in the congregation when Miss Claude married Harry Laun. The first Vacation Bible School was held in 1975 as well.

The annual Family Camp was started in 1976. This event continues to draw many families from the surrounding area each year. The Frasers have allowed us the use of an area of their farm to develop for the camp, and other activities. The record attendance at Camp is 88.

The Leroy Riley family returned to the United States at the end of June, 1979. We continued to have regular services, camp, Vacation Bible School, and other activities without a minister until September, 1980.

In September, 1980, the Dennis Harmon family arrived from Missouri. Dennis, Darlene and their three children really added to our congregation, and

were able to encourage us to grow. From an average attendance of 35 in 1979, and 33 in 1980, we reached an average of 39.3 in 1981. The total enrollment has topped 50. It is encouraging to see a maintained growth in spite of several families moving away, such as the Kempers, Bergs, Chvojkas and McVeetys. With the arrival of the Harmons, a double-wide mobile home was purchased for use as a parsonage. This is set up on the Fraser Farm.

From October 1981 to April 1982, Dennis Harmon worked as part-time minister. Since the end of April we are again without a minister but continue to carry on all the activities and plan for more.

Gordon Fraser was the first chairman of the Congregation and has been one of the key leaders in our area. Jacqueline Claude Laun was the original Secretary-Treasurer, and has continued as such for most of the time since. As the congregation has grown, and the duties become more involved, others have been encouraged to take over various areas of service. After several attempts to divide secretary and treasurer into two jobs, 1982 sees that the duties are spread among three people officially, with several assistants.

Starting with an adult bible study and communion song-service, we today have five youth classes, an adult bible study and traditional morning worship service. We also have mid-week bible studies. The congregation continues to grow as we let the Holy Spirit work through us in the Community.

## **The Church on the Hill**

For many years, Hazel Bluff United Church has stood as a landmark on the crest of a rise five miles west of Westlock town. It was the first church established in this area and has served the Protestant people of the area very well.

The early records of the church are missing but a newspaper clipping from the November 10, 1921 issue of the Edmonton Journal has the correspondent describing the events of the week as follows:

"Hazel Bluff celebrated its twelfth anniversary



on Sunday last. Rev. F. S. McCall, Principal of Alberta College North, was the preacher, and gave a very eloquent and practical sermon to a large congregation. The choir rendered special thanksgiving music. On Monday night the annual chicken supper was held. The ladies provided such abundance that they had to have another supper at reduced rates on Wednesday night.



New Hazel Bluff Church, 1909 — Douglas Telfer on front steps.

Over two hundred and fifty people crowded the church after supper to enjoy a short program and lecture by Principal McCall. Rev. T. A. Bowen gave the chairman's speech, Mrs. A. M. Neelson sang a solo, Miss L. Bowen gave a reading, Mrs. A. A. Brown and Mrs. F. E. Patterson a duet."

From the above date there is a gap in the records until July 19, 1926, at which date regular minutes are available from the meetings of the Board of Session for Hazel Bluff United Charge.

It is recorded that "Messrs. Wm. Tennant, Skode, H. Hide, McDougall, E. Skallen and A. Stanley met with Rev. Howard to decide that Hazel Bluff District should consist of Hazel Bluff, Eastburg and Rossington.

The Rossington Board is to consist of Messrs. Tennant, Skode and A. Watt, with allotments as follows:

Hazel Bluff .....	\$615.00
Eastburg .....	260.00
Rossington.....	125.00
	<u>1,000.00</u>

It was moved by A. R. Brown, seconded by Mr. Brook that the Hazel Bluff United Church board request a grant of \$850.00 for the current year in order to pay the minimum salary of \$1650.00 to the minister."

October 31, 1926: "A motion by A. R. Brown, seconded by H. Hide, that the official board of Hazel Bluff Church allow the request made by Eastburg to form a board of trustees for the purpose of getting a transfer of land and build a church thereon."



Hazel Bluff 50th Anniversary, 1959. Seated: Les Hide, Fred Bunce, Mr. Clark, Mr. McCrae, Ray Hide, Bob Jorgenson, Arthur Stanley. Standing: Walter Cameron, Evelyn Baker, Stella Sawyer, Olive McKibbin, Mrs. Kinsella, ?, Mrs. A. Stanley, Mrs. Emogene Guest. At back: Mrs. Bella Lyons, Mrs. Gil Adkins, Mrs. L. Grant, George Sterling and others.

January 28, 1927: Moved by A. R. Brown, seconded by Mrs. R. McGinnes that a request for a grant of \$1,000.00 for 1927 be forwarded to the Missionary Board."

April 20, 1927: Present at the official board meeting of the United Church charge of Hazel Bluff were Pastor Rev. Howard, Messrs. H. Hide, B. Allen, A. R. Brown, Gordon Guest, J. Brook, H. Terhorst and A. Stanley and Mesdames Day, Cross and Lyons. Reports were read from

#### A. Sunday Schools

1. Hazel Bluff .. Teachers — 10. Pupils — 98.
2. Eastburg ..... No report.

#### B. Ladies Aid

1. Hazel Bluff ... 18 members raised \$338.00
2. Eastburg ..... 12 members raised \$145.00

Three motions were passed:

1. That Mr. A. R. Brown audit the church books.
2. That duplex envelopes be used.

3. That A. Stanley and Rev. Howard be empowered to sign Schedule A of the official returns for the Hazel Bluff church charge.

October 2, 1927: As Mr. Howard had been called by Presbytery Committee to other work, it was moved by A. R. Brown and seconded by H. Hide that the charge agree to the change on condition that Hazel Bluff be in the Westlock District as soon as possible after the New Year.

February 8th, 1928: The annual meeting of the United Church charge at Hazel Bluff with Rev. J. B. Howard as chairman. The mission grant request for \$1,000.00 for 1927 had realized only \$925 leaving the rest to be raised by the field.

Mr. A. R. Brown, in his report re the Parsonage Board, stated that the two boards had agreed to share equally the \$1,000.00 on separation and that \$107.00



Hazel Bluff United Church with extensions.

had been raised to pay off the debt on the room in back of the church.

Hymn books were to be purchased by the Ladies' Aid, as they had agreed to this.

The first Board of Stewards for Hazel Bluff United Church was constituted, consisting of Mesdames Hide, Evelyn Baker and Messrs. William Lyons, Lawrence Campbell, George Adkins and A. R. Brown as chairman. Mr. A. R. Brown also became treasurer of Hazel Bluff Church, a position he was to hold for many years. The congregation had previously voted by show of hands that Messrs. Stanley, Wilson, Hide and Gordon Guest be the Session Board.

August 5th and 6th, 1934 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of Hazel Bluff Church. E. Renton was secretary of the planning committee for the event; Mrs. George (Louise) Adkins was the convenor. She wrote the following account of the history of the church up to that time.

"A quarter of a century has passed since the opening of our church at Hazel Bluff. Since then, we have had services continuously and it would be hard for us to estimate the good that has been accomplished, both spiritually and socially.

"Let us go back a few years previous to the church opening to the first religious services to be held in the district.

"In 1905, Mr. William Clark started a Sunday School which was held in the shack of Mr. H. Hart. That same year, the Presbyterian mission had a student, Mr. Much, stationed at Edison and he came to Mr. Percy Andrew's house to hold services.

"Soon after, Rev. Robert Telfer, who was living at Belvedere, rode through on horseback, following the river as closely as he could, and coming through on the surveyors' cut-lines when the bush was too thick along the river bank. He had heard of Mr. Clark's Sunday School and was pleased to find that services had started. After that, Rev. Telfer came

alternately with Rev. Swimmerton, and held services at Mr. H. Hart's before going on to Dungannon for services there. Later, Robert Telfer moved his family to the Edison community and then, when Riverdale School was built, to a section of land north of baseline 60 on the Fifth Meridian.

"Soon after, he began holding services at the home of Mrs. Grant who had an aged, invalid mother, Mrs. Ferguson. Following the morning service, he would go on by horseback to Edison by way of the baseline, then a mere trail!

"Mr. Clark continued his Sunday School at the new Riverdale School. Mrs. C. Jorgenson organized a Sunday School at her home, across the road from the Ern Stanton homestead. Mrs. C. Leake organized another Sunday School at her home on the Wabash. Thus, three neighbouring districts were served.

"As the country opened up, the need for a church was apparent. Robert Telfer chose the Hazel Bluff site for a church and cemetery on the summit of a hill in the north-west corner of the Gordon Guest homestead. A government grant was obtained for the purchase of ten acres of land and plans were made for the building of the church.

"The men of the district got out the logs which became lumber at a local saw mill. The furnishings were hauled from Morinville, the nearest train station, by willing helpers, including Andrew and Douglas Telfer, who hauled windows and frames. The women prepared meals and helped in any way they could. Although the church was under the supervision of the Methodist Mission, it was, and always has been, a truly united church.

"Mr. Telfer played a leading part in this project but before his plans were realized, he became suddenly ill and in November, 1908, he passed to his reward. He was the first to be buried in the new Hazel Bluff cemetery. Rev. M. Harden conducted the funeral service, assisted by Rev. D. B. Smith of the Presbyterian Mission. Mr. Telfer's (and his wife's) unflinching interest in this community are remembered with admiration and appreciation. Their home was always open to visitors, and their library was enjoyed by many people. One can best remember Mr. Telfer in the words of one of his favorite hymns:

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath  
And when my voice is lost in death,  
Praise shall employ my noble powers;  
My days of praise shall ne'er be past  
While life, and thought, and being last  
Or immortality endures.

"After Mr. Telfer's death, his son, Douglas, took over his father's work. Rev. I. N. Hughson was also



stationed here, so they shared a large field, taking the "Bluff" on alternate Sundays.

"On February 17, 1909, the first Ladies' Aid was organized at the home of Mrs. R. J. Wheatley, who became the first president. Also on the executive were Mrs. C. E. Leake, vice-president and Mrs. C. E. Hall who was secretary-treasurer. There were thirty other ladies present at this organizational meeting.

"The Aid has been carried on continuously since then. It would be difficult to estimate the number of socials, suppers, bazaars and picnics they have held. Besides doing a large share in helping out financially, they have created a wonderful social spirit in the community.

"The first social function of the Ladies' Aid was held at Stanton's hall. One feature of this social was a pie contest where the most popular bachelor was to receive a pie. The financial result was \$29.00, which was given to the trustees to help pay for the lumber for the church.

"The first picnic was held on the church grounds on May 24, 1909. An athletic association was formed with Gordon Guest as convenor. He has helped us ably in this capacity ever since. The Ladies Aid served the dinner at this function.

"At this time, Mr. McKinney, Liberal member for this constituency, donated \$150.00 and Mrs. Edwards of Eastburg donated \$10.00 towards the purchase of an organ. In June the organ was hauled by Andrew Telfer from Morinville where a freight bill of \$125.00 was paid. Early in July the Karn organ was installed in the church and plans were made for the opening and dedication of the church on August 1, 1909. Mr. Andrew Telfer, a theological student by then, was in charge of decorating the church and getting it in order. Charles Leake, George Guest and Mr. Wood made tables and seats to be used on the lawn at Sunday supper.

"Rev. Dr. Riddell, Principal of Alberta College, and Rev. Dr. W. A. Lewis were guest speakers at the opening of the new church. People came from far and near; many brought their dinner and stayed for other services. There were wagons, some drawn by oxen and a lucky few rode in style and comfort in democrats and buggies. In the afternoon a Sunday School was organized. In the evening a service was held. Miss Emogene Wheatley was our organist and, although young, served ably and faithfully for many years.

"On October 10, 1909, the first Thanksgiving service was held at the church, followed by a chicken supper on the following Monday.

"The first bazaar was held on November 30, 1909. It was a decided success both socially and financially, realizing \$70.00.

"Starting at Christmas, 1909, our Sunday School has annually held a program, tree and treats for the children of the community.

"In March, 1910, the Ladies' Aid bought the first paint for the church. The first janitor was Mr. William Lovell. Mr. George Crane carried on this work later, for a year, without charge, but was presented with a lovely quilt by the Ladies' Aid as a token of appreciation.

"Sometimes services were taken by Mr. Andrew Telfer and at other times by a student, a Mr. Gohegan.

"In June of 1910, a farewell party was held for Douglas and Andrew Telfer who were leaving to continue their work elsewhere.

"Rev. T. H. Bole was the next Pastor and first ordained minister. He was married while here to a young lady who had come from eastern Canada. They lived at Edison and came to the "Bluff" with a team and buggy.

"During the early years of the new church an Epworth League was organized with Edwin Stanley as President. This club was a great asset to the young people; weekly prayer meetings were held most of the time. This club met on alternate Sunday evenings for worship and song and on alternate Monday evenings for a "fun" time of games or debating, etc. A deep mud hole often gave trouble as members came to church. This same hole was fixed in 1922 when Laurence Campbell and Bert Lyons installed a culvert.

"A shed was erected at the back of the church property to shelter the horses and oxen. Some young ladies assisted in shingling the roof.

"The next minister to serve was Rev. Lloyd, who lived with his wife at Edison but later transferred into Day's home at the "Bluff". This couple joined heartily in all the activities at the church.

"In March of 1913, the Ladies Aid bought an armchair, small table and a dozen choir chairs, replacing the hand made furniture that had been in use until then. They helped to furnish the parsonage at Edison and held a kitchen shower to help out. Early in 1914 they bought the gas lighting system, since replaced by gas lamps.

"Early in 1914, Rev. Lloyd was sent to another field and Rev. W. H. Day replaced him. At this time the Edison church was moved to Westlock where Rev. Day and his family lived.

"In 1915, Rev. Day, assisted by Rev. Paul of Edmonton and Mr. Hugh Miller of Pibroch, held revival services at Hazel Bluff and Westlock. Many lives were dedicated to the service of God at these meetings — some of them being boys who were soon to go overseas.

“Rev. F. J. Johnson served the field next. During this time World War I was raging. The Aid carried on the work being done in other areas by the Red Cross. With Mrs. C. Leake as convenor, the ladies did a lot of sewing and knitting, as well as raising money to help put wainscotting and gypsum fibre on the interior of the church.

“Rev. T. A. Bowen became the next pastor, in July, 1918. During his pastorate new seats were installed in the church and a metal ceiling put overhead. Mr. Bowen undertook the work of repainting the church.

“The first wedding was held in the church when a young couple from the west drove up one Sunday with their attendants and wished to be married. Rev. Bowen, equal to any occasion, performed the ceremony at the same time as the regular afternoon service. The groom gave Mr. Bowen a fifty-dollar bill in mistake for a five dollar bill. The couple received a bible as a memento of the occasion.

“At the end of World War I, the community realized the extent of the loss of life for young men on the battlefields overseas. Some of these young men were: Martin Adkins, William Adkins, Harold C. Guest, Douglas Baillie Hamilton, Wray Kinsella, James Mills, William Robbins, Edwin Stanley, and Andrew, Cecil and Eric Telfer. What a price to pay!

“In May, 1920, the first Missionary Circle was formed in connection with the Aid and has carried on home and foreign missionary work ever since.

“The congregation celebrated its twelfth anniversary in 1921.

“In July, 1922, Rev. T. Reed was sent here. He served three fields, Westlock, Hazel Bluff and Eastburg. These congregations often joined for special services. Mrs. Lloyd helped with the music and choirs.

“The classroom at the back of the church was built in 1925 when Mr. Reed left and Rev. W. J. Huston came to serve.

“When the Westlock Presbyterian and Methodist churches united, Rev. D. K. Allen became the first United Church minister at that centre. At Hazel Bluff we had a student, Rev. S. Clark, for a short period and then Rev. J. B. Howard came. The old Edison parsonage at Westlock was sold and the money was divided between the fields. With our share we wiped out the remaining debt on the church. Our share of the furniture from the parsonage was sent to another field.

“When Rev. Howard left in July 1928, Rev. D. K. Allen took over our field with his own at Westlock and Pibroch. Later, Clyde was added to the field. Mrs. Allen always helped us with the Missionary Society work and added much to the interest of the

meetings. During these years, the interior of the church was redecorated, a foundation was put underneath the church, the classroom finished and a cupboard built. New hymnaries were bought in December, 1931.

“Annually a remembrance day is held at the church when people come from far and near to work in the cemetery improving the grounds.

“In July 1933, our present pastor Rev. T. Gordon, came to continue the work. We feel we have been very fortunate in having the men we’ve had as ministers. In connection with the Sunday School work, we especially wish to remember Mrs. Hall, Mr. Haynes, Mr. C. Jorgenson, Robert Cameron, Levi Wilson, Edward Baker, Dr. Phillips, N. McNiven, A. Horrocks, Mr. Clark, A. Watt, J. Watt Sr., Mrs. E. Baker and Mrs. William Lyons. Many others have helped by being secretaries, teachers and C.G.I.T. and boys work leaders.

“The organists have been Mrs. George Guest, Miss Jean Telfer, Mrs. F. Stampe, Miss O. Allen and Miss M. Neilson. Robert Cameron was our former choir leader; Rev. Gordon is now conductor.

“As some people have dropped out of the work or moved away, others have stepped in to continue the work of the church. With our splendid group of young people now, we feel that the future of our church will be as successful as in the past.”

The twenty-fifth anniversary celebration was held on August 5, 1934. The morning service was led by ministers Hughson, Bowen and F. J. Johnson assisting the present minister, Rev. Gordon. The old time choir; Olive Allen, Mary Jorgenson, Lois Grant, May McDougall, Louise Adkins, Mrs. E. Baker, Mrs. E. Stanton, A. Stanley and L. Campbell was accompanied at the organ by Mrs. George Guest, Jr.

The afternoon service was a memorial service led by R. Smith, editor of the Westlock Witness and Rev. Smith. The evening service was conducted by Dr. E. Thompson of Leduc. A supper and a concert completed the day.

The session minutes for 1934 indicate that six members joined by profession of faith. These were Gladys Wilson, Margaret and Don Baker, Lois and Rosa Stanley and Hugh Drummond. There were seven baptisms; Blanche Stanton, Louise Adkins, W. J. Cameron, A. J. Miller, Alex McKay Miller, Bertha Wightman and Mrs. Martha Reid. There were two funerals; Mr. H. Hide and Frederick Hamilton Smith.

The years following 1934 were highlighted by anniversary celebrations in 1955, 1959 and the seventieth in 1979.

Members of the congregation and former minis-



ters submitted letters of reminiscences which are included to give us an idea of the tone of the times in which they lived.

## Church of the Nazarene

The Church of the Nazarene came into the Westlock Municipal District in 1932, when a log church was built about a mile west of Dapp Corner. It was dedicated on March 4th, 1938 by Rev. D. Swarth.

In 1950, the erection of a new frame church was started at Dapp Corner on three acres of land that was donated by Mr. Allie Watt of Fawcett, a very active and dedicated member of the Church. The construction was supervised by Rev. Chris Cornish, who was Pastor at that time. The lumber, labour and materials were supplied by many members of the congregation. This church was dedicated by Dr. Lawlor, the District Superintendent for the Canada West District, on August 19th, 1951.



District Superintendent L. G. Smith turning the first sod for the Church of the Nazarene in Eastglen. Behind him is Mrs. Ruby Nutt. To her left stands Allie Watt and Mrs. Watt, Rev. Norman Wiggins and Ture Johnson. Standing behind them is Roger Smith.

The church grew and prospered during the next ten years, through the efforts of several dedicated Pastors, and in 1963 a proposal to open a church in the Town of Westlock was made and discussed by the Board of Trustees and the Pastor, Rev. Norman Wiggins. For the convenience of members of the congregation who no longer lived in the Dapp area, evening services were held in St. Philip's Parish Hall for several months, and the nucleus of the proposed church congregation began to form. A Building Fund was started, contributions came in, and soon the objective was reached. An acre of land was located in a choice position in the Eastglen subdivision, and this was purchased by the Board in 1964. The sod-breaking ceremony took place on August 15, 1965, with Dr. Herman Smith turning the first sod. He was the District Superintendent for this area at that time.

Rev. Norman Wiggins designed the new church and supervised the construction, doing a great deal of the work himself. By using the labour volunteered by several members of the congregation, the cost of the building was reduced considerably. It was completed sufficiently for the holding of services in early 1966 and Rev. Wiggins held the first service on May 8th, of that year.

As the Westlock Church was now definitely established, and was holding regular services, Rev. Wiggins offered his resignation, because he thought it advisable to have a resident Pastor who could take the services at both Dapp and Westlock. Rev. Wiggins had been commuting from his residence in Edmonton every Sunday for the services and sometimes during the week for Board Meetings and other church activities.

In August of 1967, Rev. R. M. Quantz from Caroline, accepted the call to Pastor the church for both the Dapp and Westlock congregations, which position he held until March, 1971, when Rev. Norman Falk took over as Pastor for both churches.

The following year, Dapp decided to amalgamate with the Westlock Church. Many thought it would be an economical advantage to join the two congregations into one, even though it meant some of the members would have to drive long distances to attend the services.

Later, the Dapp property was sold and the proceeds of the sale went towards the retirement of the Westlock mortgage.

Under the leadership of Rev. Falk, the Church prospered and a Parsonage was built on the church property. The Falk family were then able to move out of the rooms they had occupied in the church itself, into a modern residence, of which the people were justly proud. Rev. Falk continued his ministry for several years, during which time his daughter, Karen, became the wife of David Armstrong. David Falk graduated from Medical College, and is now a missionary doctor at the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital in Manzini, Swaziland, South Africa, with his wife, Dawn, who is on the nursing staff there.

Rev. Falk moved from Westlock in 1978 and Rev. R. Dipert, (Pastor Bob) came to the parsonage in July of that year, with his wife, Myrna, and their daughter, Jerun. He ministered the church for three years, during which time their son, Joshua, was born. Pastor Bob felt called to start another outreach in St. Albert, so he resigned as Pastor of the Westlock Church and left the area. It was during his ministry that the final payment was made on the church mortgage, and a special Mortgage Burning Ceremony was held on May, 4th, 1980, when Dr. H. Smith was present, with some of the Charter Members. "Pastor



New church of the Nazarene, opened 1966.

Bob" is now living in St. Albert where he is pastoring to a growing congregation.

Pastor Rick Burk is now ministering to the spiritual needs of the Church of the Nazarene in Eastglen, along with his wife, Laura. They took over the Pastorate in September of 1981. Pastor Rick is continuing his studies to become an ordained minister while he is in charge here. He is a graduate of Hillcrest Christian College in Medicine Hat, and has had considerable experience in serving a congregation by having been Assistant Pastor at the Medicine Hat Church of the Nazarene, before coming to Westlock.

### Christ Church (Anglican) Cemetery

The Anglican Parish of Christ Church, Pibroch, Alberta, was established in 1912. It is accepted in the community that the first burial took place in 1915.

This cemetery is situated on what is now known as Highway 44. It is one mile east and one mile south of Pibroch, Alberta, on the N.E. 32-60-26-W4th Meridian.



Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, N.E. 32-60-26-W4th.

In 1932 the Parish was disestablished and the church was moved to Jarvie, Alberta. Since that time, very few burials have taken place there.

### Eastburg Church

by Dorothy Baker

The first Sunday School in Eastburg district was held at the Henry Kipp farm.

In 1928 the Eastburg church was built during the time that Rev. J. B. Howard was minister. Stewards of the church at that time were; Messrs. W. Wickman, Henry Terhorst, T. James, Sr., W. Curtis and R. McGinnis.

The congregations continued to grow under the leadership of such Ministers as Rev. J. Graham who served faithfully for seventeen years. He was followed by Rev. Nix and then Rev. J. Roberts, now at Camrose. Rev. J. Roberts had the habit of leaving his hat and coat on the collection plate, from where it had to be removed before Charlie Johnson could take the offering!

Rev. A. Scott succeeded Rev. Jim Roberts and then Rev. E. Samuels came as minister from Barrhead, as Eastburg church was at this time in the Barrhead Pastoral Charge.

In January 1960, the Board of Stewards was comprised of W. Byvank, T. James, L. Brown, J. L. Hodgins, Mrs. J. Horricks and Mrs. C. James. The trustees were Charlie Johnston, Mrs. C. James, and W. Byvank. The congregation came from Pickardville, Manola, Highridge, Westlock and Rossington, according to a 1959 mailing list.

The first wedding to be held in the church was that of Art and Alida Stanton in 1934. The last wedding held there was a double wedding in 1949 when Tom James and Dorothy Pearson were married in a double ceremony with Lloyd Ralph and Ellen Lajarise.

The church was redecorated during 1960-1961 but lack of attendance forced the congregation to pass a motion that church services at Eastburg be discontinued "for the time being" on December 12, 1962.

On August 28, 1963, a congregational meeting decided to allow the Hazel Bluff congregation to have the Eastburg church and to apply to Presbytery for permission to do this.

The Eastburg Church was moved to its present site on the Hazel Bluff church grounds on November 27, 1963. It has been in constant use since as a Sunday School room.

The pews were given to Manola United Church but were returned to Eastburg church when the Manola church closed. The organ was donated to Mossie United Church and the pulpit to Campsie. The money on hand and from the sale of land was turned



over to Long Island Lake Camp Fund, as were the hymn books.

### **A Brief History of the Westlock Pentecostal Tabernacle**

"Except the Lord build a house, they labor in vain who build it." Psalm 127:1

These words of the Psalmist may have been the thoughts of Elmer Still when he started the above place of worship in 1953. The lot then cost \$115.00, which he donated. With organizational help from the Assemblies Superintendent, Mr. Tildon, the Tabernacle was opened first in a portable building in October.



Pentecostal Tabernacle renovated in 1963.

In 1956, under the continuing leadership of two young co-pastors, Minnie and Hilda Mueller, our congregation purchased the Lutheran Church from their assembly in Westlock. This building was formerly a one room school House.

Reverend Angus and Mrs. McClain took over the pastorate in 1957. During his stay, the lot next door was purchased and a house moved in from Clyde for Pastor's accommodation. Rev. Dwaine and Mrs. Carruthers followed Bro. Angus in 1963. During Dwaine Carruthers ministry, the church was renovated to its present stage. Water facilities were added as the area became part of the town property.

The following years, the spiritual leadership was taken over in turn by Hilda Mueller and Loretta Bollman, Rev. and Mrs. White, Rev. and Mrs. Dave Hunter, Rev. and Mrs. Dave Townsend, Les and Mrs. Howard, Rev. and Mrs. Borzel, who are now missionaries in Hong Kong since 1976. They have learned to speak Cantonese. Rev. and Mrs. Don McNutt followed the Borzels. It was during their stay that the manse was expanded and renovated to its present condition. Reverend and Mrs. Sydney Ruffo came next, and at present we have Reverend and Mrs. Kevin Williams. In all we are thankful to God for all



Pentecostal Parsonage renovated in fall of 1976.

the above workers who have given generously of their time to this work.

We are now launching into an expanding building program. Today, in our computerised society, our plan has to go the route of Architect, Planning Branch and Town Council. We are expanding to the glory and praise of God, Who has given us "His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

### **History of the St. Benoit Council The Catholic Women's League of Canada of Pickardville**

The St. Benoit Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada was organized June 3, 1960, by Mrs. Dorothy (Frank) Roberts of Westlock. Mrs. Roberts was Organization Convenor of the St. Paul Diocesan Council at the time.

Our first Executive Members were:  
President: Mrs. Rejeanne (Elden) Glebe  
1 Vice President: Mrs. Doreen (Hugh) Lecky  
2 Vice President: Mrs. Mary Rose (Alfred) Victoor  
Secretary: Mrs. Delia (George) McLaughlin  
Treasurer: Mrs. Donna (Howard) Ringstad

There were eleven Charter Members, five are listed above and these are the others:

Mrs. George (Irene) Borlee  
Mrs. Bob (Marilyn) Calkins  
Mrs. Mary Evelyn Provost  
Mrs. Cyril (Mary) Victoor  
Mrs. Ernest (Geneva) St. Louis  
Miss Nell Stack

Other Memberships held in this Council:

Lil Burns, Monica Czech, Darlene Esch, Adrienne Frenche, Alice Garon, Exillia Garon, Jeanette Garon, Linda Garon, Dawn Henry, Lillian Juneau, Irene Kramps, Pat Lafrance, Florence Lambert, Simonne Lambert, Louise MacDonald (Presi-

dent), Lena Morin, Sister Joanne Morin, Cecile Nadeau, Delia Nadeau, Jean Nadeau, Barbara Page, Simonne Paquette, Bonnie Provost, Simonne Provost, Yolande Racine, Jean Rosendale, Lena Rude, Juliette St. Louis, Vivianne St. Louis, Pauline Verbeek, Claire Victoor, Sister Doreen Victoor, Lucille Victoor.



St. Benoît Roman Catholic Church, Pickardville.

Directors were:

Fathers Albert Langevin, Rosaire Morin, Lucien Tellier, Laurent Bussiere, Andrew Dejardins, Louis Viel, Edmond Croteau, Walter Laliberty, Edmund Gagajek.

Some of our activities were/are:

Each April we honor Our Lady of Good Counsel, host a wine and cheese party, have a membership week, present each new member with a League Pin.

Hold study programs, a C.W.L. Night, hosted a mother of the year tea. Were involved with International Year of the Child Program. Prayed for the success of the Vatican Council II; promoted and attended our Parish Retreat; organized a program for parishioners to pray for Vocations one night during

the week of Retreat for the Priests from our Diocese. Hold a Family Christmas Party every year.

In 1977 we submitted a Resolution — for change in "Pension for Widows of Disabled Veterans". This Resolution was passed at all levels of the League, then presented to the Federal Government by a Committee of the National Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and has now become Legislation in Canada.

We all assisted in the organization of the 50th Anniversary of our Church, June 1979.

We donated to our Church; a new crucifix; organ, Mass Vestments, spotlights to illuminate the altar, Processional Cross, Book Shelves, Lectionary, Alter Mass Book, Meeting Room.

Other support was given to \*Sacred Heart Program, Vanier Institute of the Family, National Scholarship Fund, C.U.S.O., Development and Peace, Mass Media, Jellinek House, Newman College, Council for the Family, Telerama, Christmas Box at C.F.O.K. Radio, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, Brownies, Alberta Crippled Children's Fund, Father Rousseau — Missionary in Brazil, Diocesan C.W.L. Fund, Immaculata Hospital — towards the purchase of Resusi-Ann Fund, also the intensive care unit, Barrhead and District Foster Parents Association, St. Paul Diocesan Council Fund.

Prayer Circle — We have started a Prayer Circle, each member makes up a link in a chain, prayer requests are phoned in and all members are contacted to pray for this special intention.

We are now looking forward to the Celebration of our 25th Anniversary in 1987.

## St. Mary's C.W.L.

The St. Mary's Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was organized in Westlock on May 16, 1956. The guest speaker at that meeting was Mrs. Winnifred O'Brien of the Edmonton Catholic Women's League. The original slate of officers was: Director — Reverend Monsignor E. Rooney, President — Mrs. Annie Casey, Secretary — Mrs. Loretta Renaud, Treasurer — Mrs. Dorothy MacIntyre, First Vice-President — Mrs. Stella Cryderman, Second Vice-President — Mrs. Theresa Kallal, Third Vice President — Mrs. Joan MacIntyre. The six councillors were Mrs. Doreen Forbes, Mrs. Dorothy Miller, Mrs. Grace Feheley, Mrs. Annie MacInnes, Mrs. Viola MacIntyre and Mrs. Flora MacInnes.

The membership fee was set at one dollar per annum, and meeting nights were the first Wednesday of every month. Members are still attending monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month.

Early fund raising projects included catering, fall suppers, bazaars, bake sales, raffles and bingos.



Programs at meetings were varied and consisted of debates, guest speakers, films, skits and buzz sessions.

In August of 1956 the St. Paul Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was formed. The first president was Mrs. Dorothy Roberts who was instrumental in organizing other C.W.L. Councils throughout the Diocese.

Over the years the Marian Centre has received our support in the form of donations of used clothing, fresh vegetables and financial donations.

Members have worked at summer camp activities at Island Lake and are active in community affairs on a volunteer basis.

Organizations such as Win House, Oxfam, Foster Parents Plan, Missions and Development and Peace have also received our support.

Our annual Valentine Tea and Bake Sale was started in 1957 and is still being held.

Kitty Swaren received recognition for her twenty-three years of work with the Girl Guide Organization. She was awarded the Long Service Pin and a Thanks Badge for services above and beyond the call of duty.

In 1965 Dorothy Roberts received a Papal Medal for her work with the C.W.L.

Our project "Donations to Charity in Lieu of Local Christmas Cards" was began in 1968, and was carried out for ten years, thanks to the efforts of Beverly Dutka.

Ecumenical activities over the years have included participation in World Day of Prayer, Citizenship Courts, joint meetings and social activities.

A special project in 1971 was getting five hundred chickens plucked and cleaned to be sent to the Marian Center for which effort our Council was mentioned at the National Convention. This was also the year of our first wine and cheese Christmas Party which is still a continuing event.

St. Mary's Council hosted the St. Paul Diocesan Convention in 1972 and the Provincial Convention in 1976. We also hosted the 1981 Diocesan Convention which coincided with the 25th Anniversary celebration.

We have helped celebrate ordination anniversaries of our Parish Priests, Father MacKenzie's 25th in 1964, Monsignor Rooney's 50th in 1973, and Father Morrisette's 25th in 1980. We also took part in the 50th Anniversary of the Sisters of Charity and the Immaculata Hospital in 1977.

The C.W.L. Council has been active throughout the past twenty-seven years and at present continues to work for God and Canada.

## **The Church of St. Mary of the Assumption Westlock Roman Catholic Church by Berta Dunncliffe**

It is believed that the history of Westlock's church outdates the history of the town by more than a decade.

St. Mary's Church had no archives prior to the coming of Reverend Father Morrisette as resident priest in 1973. During his seven years term of service he established a history of the church which is now in the church archives.



St. Mary's Catholic Church 1922-1936.

It is stated that the beginning of the church was not on the present site on 100th. Avenue, but that the original church was erected on "Protestant Hill", which is three miles east of Westlock and about two and a half miles south from where Edison school was located.

The first Mass in the area was celebrated by Reverend Father Normandeau in 1903 in the home of Joseph Beauchamp, who lived at the base of Protestant Hill. The Edison School was also apparently used for church services at one time.

In 1907 a church was built on Protestant Hill. One of the priests who held services there was Reverend

Father Mellott, but I have no knowledge of who the other priests were.

In about 1916 or 1917, Rev. Fr. Koolan came to live in Clyde as a missionary priest. He served Clyde, Vimy, Pickardville, Westlock and Dapp. He would try to have services every two or three months at the various points but due to lack of roads, this was not always easy. He would travel by whatever means was possible — on foot, by horse and buggy or sled, or even on the railroad hand-car, taking along sleeping equipment and some food. He was a very good and kindly man who always had a twinkle in his eye.

I made my first communion at the home of Grandpa and Grandma Allinott in about the year 1919. My mother was most perturbed because her daughter had to go in everyday clothes instead of the traditional white dress, with candles and flowers.



Exterior of present St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. Installing the new bell.

The first Catholic Church in Westlock was built in 1922. Rev. Alfred McIntyre was the first resident priest, who served from 1921 to 1924. He was followed by Rev. Fr. Rooney, who later became Monsignor Rooney. He stayed here from 1924 to 1973. He was a great priest, a man's man, a very understanding person who was admired and esteemed by all denominations. He passed away in Westlock.

The first church burned down in the late 1930's. It was a wooden structure, and when it burned, all the records were lost. Services were held in a theatre building on main street in Westlock after the fire. The present church was built in 1937 and the official opening date was November 14. Mr. Mandy Lefebvre, brother of Georgette Lefebvre, installed the cross on the top of the spire, with the help of the Moran brothers.

Rev. Fr. Morrisette came to Westlock from Dapp in 1973 and served the Parish until 1980. He is now living in Athabasca. He was followed by Rev. Fr. Walter Laliberty, who is still with us. He is a very understanding priest and a good friend.

Extensive renovations were carried out on the present church and were completed in 1969. A new, larger bell had been installed in the belfry.

In 1956 the Catholic Women's League was formed. The director was Father Rooney.

The President was Mrs. Annie Casey

Secretary Mrs. Loretta Renaud

Treasurer Mrs. Dorothy McIntyre

First Vice-Pres. Mrs. Stella Cryderman

Second Vice-Pres. Mrs. Theresa Kallal

The C.W.L. is still going strong, with some new leaders as well as some of the original ones.

A good motto with which to close this history is: —

“Not to live for himself alone,

But to be of use to others.”

a precept to which one and all seem faithful.

## **St. Philip's Anglican Church, Westlock**

**Derek F. Nicholls**

**Rector, 1980-**

St. Philip's Anglican Church has its roots in the early growth of Westlock as a community. Seventy years ago it was built under the guidance of Reverend A. C. Trench and a dedicated group of lay people. At that time St. Philip's was within the Diocese of Calgary but in 1913 the Diocese of Edmonton was created and St. Philip's became one of the parishes in the new Diocese.

George Birks with his team of oxen hauled the wood for the new St. Phillip's Church, and although it was to be an Anglican Church the settlers of all denominations gave a helping hand. It was truly a community effort. In the days that the church building was being constructed Rev. A. C. Trench held services at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Westgate and in the store owned by Mr. Edgar Stanton at Hazel Bluff.

The early days of the Westlock Parish saw ministry offered far and wide. Communities served would have included Dapp, Perryvale, Rochester, Clyde,





Building St. Philip's Anglican Church 1913. In the picture are Rev. A. C. Trench, Mr. McTavish, Fred Westgate, Mr. A. Adkins, Mr. Stanley. Inside were J. Alton, Mr. Birks and Mr. MacEachern.

Jarvie, Alcomdale, Rossington, Hazel Bluff. It was indeed a tremendous area which taxed the strength of both priests and lay people.

1927 saw the arrival of Rev. Edward Williams and during his stay the main section of the Parish Hall was built. It was the first such building in Westlock and soon became the centre for much of the community's social life. Dances were held every Friday night for which the men paid 10 cents while the ladies provided the lunch.

The Vicarage, built in 1913 by voluntary help, still stands next to the Church on 105 Street. The present Rectory was purchased during the ministry of Rev. Fabian Hugh on 99 Street, opposite the O.K. Radio Station.

During the periods of 1924-26 and 1940-52 the Parish of Westlock was ministered to by the Rector of Barrhead. Some of these years were the period of the Second World War. From 1967 St. Philip's has been part of the large Parish of Westlock, Barrhead, and Lac La Nonne — an area of about 3,000 square miles.

1983 has marked the 70th Anniversary of St.

ST. PHILIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
WESTLOCK, ALBERTA



St. Philip's Anglican Church, Westlock, Alberta.

Philip's Parish. A time of special celebration, it also commemorates numerous pioneers of the past 70 years to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude. These include such well known names as Peter Abernathy, Hugh Johnson, Albert Horrocks, Percy Raymond, each in their turn being honoured by their Vestries by being made Life Members of Vestry. Wilfred Horrocks and Percy Raymond fulfilled many years as Church Organists, Emily Abernathy maintained the Sunday School for thirty years or more, and faithful members of the Parish Family served as Wardens and Vestry Members, and within the Women's Auxiliary and the Anglican Church Women.

This is only part of the story of St. Philip's, but it recognizes the unique role which the Anglican Church has played in this area for 70 years. We dedicate this account to all who have been and are part of this great company of people to the present time.

### Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Trinity Lutheran, like most Christian congregations, finds its roots in the life of other congregations, being born of Lutheran congregations in the area that surrounds Westlock. As persons of Lutheran background moved into Westlock to join those who were already here, the need to establish a Lutheran congregation was felt and expressed.

The first meetings of Trinity were held in homes. Beginning in 1934, services were held once a month in the August Gross home. Pastor Buehler of Flatbush came and ministered to the group here. When Pastor Buehler left Flatbush, his ministry was followed by Pastor Krisch of Manola. As more people were coming, the meeting place was moved to the basement of the United Church; the serving pastor was then Pastor Nicholas Gloekler. For a period of time the Anglican Church also was used.

In the spring of 1946 some of the concerned persons met in Mr. Ewald (Ed) Missal's blacksmith



The first church building of Trinity Lutheran Church, Westlock. The occasion — a mission festival.

shop and decided that a meeting should be called for the purpose of organizing a congregation. On May 2, 1946, the meeting was held in the United Farmers' Association Hall with Pastor Fritz Rehn of Barrhead presiding. At this meeting, persons from both Moravian and Lutheran backgrounds were present. It was agreed that denominational affiliation of the proposed congregation would be decided by vote: the decision then was to organize a Lutheran congregation. With Pastor Rehn, Pastor of the Alberta Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Western Canada and Other Provinces presiding, Mr. Missal moved that a Lutheran congregation be formed in Westlock. Mr. Gottlieb Jerke seconded the motion and it was passed by the twenty-one persons present.



Exterior of Trinity Lutheran Church, Westlock; present Sanctuary and Trinity Centre.

The first worship service of the newly organized congregation was held on the following Sunday, May 5, 1946, with sixty-two persons present. The service was held in the U.F.A. Hall, and of the service Pastor Rehn said, "It was a great start for Trinity Church." Pastor Rehn served the congregation every second Sunday evening until March 16, 1947. His ministry was followed by Pastor Karl Freitag, a "travelling pastor." Pastor Wilhelm Wahl was called as the first full time pastor in 1948.

One of the first concerns of the newly organized congregation was to obtain a house of worship. Mr. Richard (Shorty) Wagner purchased a lot from Harry Curlett. He also purchased the Arvilla schoolhouse. The congregation later refunded Mr. Wagner for the money he advanced to make these purchases. The building was moved to Westlock on wooden dollies by Mr. James Crone. Because the arrangements did not steer very well, it took two days to move the building. After being set on a foundation at the present location of Trinity Lutheran, a covered entry way was added as well as altar space.

The first wedding to be celebrated in the new church was that of Victor Jerke and Clara Steinbring. On December 26 the church was crowded for the first Christmas program. The building was dedicated on August 17, 1947, when a mission festival was also held. It was a great day. People came from far and near, with even a band present.



Interior of Trinity Lutheran Church, Westlock.

The present church was built in 1954, largely with volunteer labor. A new addition to the church, called Trinity Center, was dedicated on April 30, 1978. The parsonage was built in 1949. The congregation continues its ministry through Word and Sacrament, endeavoring to become "A Caring Community," as the motto on the sign by the church proclaims.

## Busby United Church

In the summer of 1904, a young man named Fred Fox was sent to this district by the Methodist Church, and held services in houses as there were no schools or churches here at this time. After Mr. Cox went back to University in the fall, Mr. James Kelly, a Presbyterian local preacher who was a farmer of the Ray district, began holding services throughout the area and continued to do so for many years.

Every summer the Methodists sent a student minister out, and after the Advance schoolhouse was built in 1905, services were held there. This was located one mile west and two miles north of the present town of Busby. During the time between 1904 and 1912, when the railroad was built and Busby was named, there were many visiting students. The following are some of them: Fred Fox, Mr. Seymore from Sion; I. M. Hughson; John Harder; Douglas and Andrew Telfer, Mr. Driver. There was an occasional visit from the Methodist Superintendent of Missions.

In a sparsely settled district, it didn't seem wise





First United Church opened in Busby on April 1, 1923.

to have both denominations trying to keep a student at work, so an agreement was reached and the field divided. The Presbyterians went south and west and the Methodists went north, so the United Church really began here before the time of church union in 1925.

The Busby Community Hall was built in 1918 and regular services were held there. Mr. Thomas Corbet, an ordained Methodist Minister, was stationed here in 1921, and the manse was built that fall. Captain John Graham moved into the manse on July 1, 1922 and started building the Busby church in the fall. It was opened for worship April 1, 1923.

The Rev. P. K. McRae followed Capt. Graham and arrived here in the summer of 1925. The church and manse were painted that year and the church formally opened and dedicated. The special preacher for the occasion was Rev. Wm. Grant of Central Church in Edmonton. The erection of the building was aided by grants and loans from the Home Mission Board of the Methodist Church.

The Rev. P. K. McRae left Busby in the fall of 1926. George Young, a student, supplied the field during the summer of 1927. He was followed by Rev.

R. R. Richey, Rev. J. B. Howard and Rev. R. R. McPherson who came in 1931.

The original church building was used as a church school on two different occasions. From September, 1932 until June, 1940 instruction was given in grades 9, 10 and 11. The teachers were: Agnes Moran, Violet Latham, Mr. Riley and Peggy Mallandaine. The rent was set at \$10.00 a month. In April of 1946, the Busby school burned to the ground. The junior pupils, Grades 1 to 6, went to the community hall and the seniors, Grades 7 to 10, went to the church for the second time. Classes were held there until November of 1947.

Miss Alberta Lentz and Miss Bordman started the first C.G.I.T. about 1932. A band concert was held on September 10, on the church grounds with the Ladies' Aid providing the refreshments. They were an active group at this time helping to support the church.

In the 1930's prominent church workers were Mr. and Mrs. R. Walton. He taught Sunday School at the Advance School. The church held "Robbie Burns" concerts and had many social events.

In 1936 the Church Board agreed to pay one half of Rev. W. P. Laird's moving expenses to Busby. This amounted to \$20. Also \$6. was paid for repairs to the manse and \$13.75 for the purchase of a new stove for the church. The Church Board at this time consisted of: Mr. C. McConaghy; Mr. and Mrs. J. Harris; Mr. J. Heale; Mr. L. B. McCoomb and Mrs. G. Haddigan. Miss Gertie McMillan spoke on behalf of the Young People expressing their appreciation to Rev. Laird for his hard work on their organization. 1939 saw hard times for the church. The following were the year end bank balances: Ladies' Aid — \$17.16; Sunday School — \$6.95; Church — \$19.60 — and we think we have troubles!

Rev. Laird's back salary was paid off in a lump sum of \$10.00, then \$2.50 a month until fully paid off. Financial problems continued into the 1940's.

In 1944, the congregation felt they could no longer afford an ordained minister. Services were provided by student ministers from this time until 1972 with the exception of Miss Ilean James who was ordained while serving with us. Serving students were as follows: Eldrid G. Miller — July, 1945-1947; Frank Chubb — 1947-1951; Miss Ilean James — 1951-1954. She re-organized youth groups. She also found another interest here dear to her heart. A local young gentleman, namely, Howard Munro, became her husband and later an ordained minister. Then came Glenn Betts, 1954-1956; Jim Veitch, 1956-1959; George Whitford, 1959-1962 and Don McQuarrie, 1962-1964.

Our old church was extremely cold in the winter.

Don was responsible for challenging the congregation to try to raise money to build a new one. The sod was turned on October 24, 1962 and the building completed by February 24, 1963. The church was officially dedicated on June 12, 1963.

The three congregations being served by one minister, Busby, Independence and Pickardville, started talking about a new manse. A hired carpenter and volunteer labour once again went to work, and had it ready by June, 1963. In 1964, Mr. E. Wiedrick passed away, leaving a memorial of \$1,000.00 for the purchase of a new electric organ. This was a great improvement after the old pump organ.

Our next minister was Mr. Jim Nicholas, a lay minister who served from 1964 to 1968. Mr. Wayne Short, our last student minister was with us from 1968 to 1972. During his stay he enlarged the area to include Jarvie and Linaria. The church once again found itself in financial difficulties. Wayne worked on a union with Westlock and area.

July 1, 1972, was the start of the Westlock and District Pastoral Charge. This was served by a team ministry consisting of Rev. Frank Andrews and Rev. Mina Pool. They worked out of Westlock Church and served Independence, Busby, Pickardville, Clyde, Jarvie, Hazel Bluff and Westlock. Rev. Andrews retired in 1976, and Rev. Pool left in 1978.

1975 saw the 50th. Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. It was a double celebration for us with the "burning of the mortgage." We are proud to say that our church is still open despite some hard times, and is now paid for.

From 1976 to 1978 we were served by Rev. Harold McDonald. Rev. Charles Richey was Minister from 1978 to 1982; Michael Cochrane (student) 1978-1979; Mrs. Lilian Patey, Lay supply 1979-1980; Miss Pat Dyson, commissioned 1980-1982; Rev. John and Rev. Carolyn Hudson, 1982-1983.

Over the years, the Busby Church building has been the centre of many activities, other than Sunday services. Some were fowl, pot-luck and pancake suppers; C.G.I.T.; other youth group activities and meetings, Easter pageants and Christmas concerts, afternoon teas and bazaars, etc.

Thanks to our members, who gave so freely of labour, materials and money, the fall of 1982 saw the completion of our church basement including sewer and water. No more **out-house!** No more carrying of water in and out. A real treat. Donated carpet makes the cement floor warm for Sunday School pupils. Our convenient and cosy basement is now used for many small community functions.

The Busby United Church is still a very important part of our small community.

## History of Clyde United Church by Ernie Dagg

By 1904, church services were being held at Edison, at Swallowhurst to the west and at the Beaton, Sr. home to the east. Donald McGregor, from Knox College, Montreal, a young minister, was well liked by the young folks. In 1904, Mr. Beaton had applied for a government grant for forty acres for church and cemetery purposes. Mr. Beaton died before this was completed. He was buried on the homestead but later the body was moved to the present site of Dungannon cemetery.



Clyde United Church, 1921.

This cemetery has been known to be one of the best kept in rural Alberta. It is located two miles west and one mile north of Clyde. John Gibson gave it the name of Dungannon after a spot in northern Ireland.

The travelling missionaries held services at Edison, Clyde and in the Dungannon school. Some of these men were John Mutch, Stewart Beatt, Robert Telfer and D. B. Smith. These men all took homesteads in the area; Telfer near Hazel Bluff, Beatt near Westlock and Smith homesteaded at Swallowhurst in 1909.

Rev. Smith would hold a service at Swallowhurst in the morning, walk through mud four and a half miles to Riverdale later in the day. The next Sunday he would go east to Edison, Dungannon, Clyde, or Violet Hill School. Keith Moffat remembers his bay horse and buggy. He left this district in 1912 to return three years later around Perryvale, Rochester, Willow Ridge and Pine Valley. Rev. Clark and Rev. Winfield Race came as students.

In 1910, the area west of the CNR tracks was subdivided by Tate Realty for the new Clydesdale site. By the end of the year an overseas mission of the Anglican church decided to build a church in the middle of this division on a knoll. Now, in 1983, trees still grow out of the foundation base.





Clyde United Church Sunday School beside church.

Early in 1911 this first church was built under the supervision of Rev. Trench, an Anglican, who also then homesteaded two miles north of Swallowhurst school and married a girl from that area.

George Clyde who owned Old Clyde centre could not agree with the CNR on a price for a station area — so CNR built the station one half mile south on the same side of the tracks. They also fenced off the railway property. This closed off the Clydesdale subdivision so that people had to drive north, cross the tracks and then go south to the new development.

By 1911, the hotel and H. W. Nickerson's "outfitter" store were under construction. These were both one block east of the new station, the hotel on the south-west corner and Nickerson on the north-west corner. In 1912, the first New Year's Eve dance was held in the store, before the goods came in.

At this time the Presbyterians were increasing in numbers, holding services in the homes. Albert



Clyde United Church Choir. Back row, L to R: Madge Dagg, Irene Carew, Orville Davis, Eva Burroughs, Arliss Aultman, Mrs. Robinson (Choir leader), Mrs. Freda Nickerson (organist). Front row: Alice Erickson, Elsie Hines, Nancy Dagg, Dorothy Robinson, Doris Hanson, Ruth Stephens, Dorothy Runnels.

McKewan and Niel Forbes built a two-storey building on Main Street. The second floor was a dance hall where the Christmas concerts were held. The Presbyterians rented this room for services and a Sunday School room.

Mr. A. R. Moody was the superintendent of the Sunday School with Johnny Jack and Albert Savage as secretary and treasurer. Among the teachers were Mrs. H. Nickerson (who started (CGIT), Mrs. Cut-hiel and later daughter Janet, Mrs. H. Savage, and Mrs. G. Warren.

In 1920 the Anglican church was moved from its original spot to the corner across from the present curling rink. The Presbyterians then used the same building, choosing different hours for their services.

Mr. MacLean came after the first World War. George Carew and Hugh Savage were inducted by him as Elders of the Clyde Church in 1922. Rev. MacLean and his family resided in Clyde until a new manse was built in Westlock, which was more central for Hazel Bluff, Westlock and Clyde. All these centres contributed to the upkeep of the manse.

The Methodists and the Presbyterians were joined as one under the United Church of Canada. Rev. McLean continued until 1926 when Rev. D. K. Allan came as the new minister.

With church union on their doorstep, the Clyde Church Board appointed Hugh Savage to approach the owner, Pope Sellick, of the unused Church of Christ building. Money was borrowed through a grant and loan from the Board of Home Missions of the United Church of Canada, Toronto. This \$500 sum was paid back before due time in 1931. In 1929 a vestibule was added and the building re-shingled, a garage was built and the property fenced appropriately with page wire.

Through the depression years a delegation of Mrs. Nickerson, Mrs. Cunningham, George Carew and Jimmy Wright went to the city to investigate what style of church would best suit the town of Clyde. Their request for assistance from the Presbytery was refused at that time.

By 1936 it was realized that an addition was necessary in order to accommodate the boys and girls groups; more Sunday School room. Three new active families had arrived: H. B. Robinson, a bank manager, bought Nickerson's store; Vern Burrows had taken over the hardware that W.A.C. Bennett had operated and Martin Stevens was the new station agent following Mr. Savage's retirement. Rev. Wallace Moss was the new minister.

This new project started in July and completed in August, consisted of a 24' x 30' parlor, which opened into a sanctuary and proved very popular for supper, entertainments, Sunday School, C.G.I.T.





Clyde United Church.

banquets and as extra space if required for special services and large funerals. This was our major project for 1949.

Further projects, during the ministry of John S. Clark (1945-50) included a basement, raising the building two and a half feet, a choir loft, with windows in the form of a cross, and a new front entrance, with curtains and new pews. After sewer and water came to Clyde we added washrooms in 1958. The building was completed with insulation and a new shingle job in 1983. The UCW did much to help improve the building which was completed in 1957.

#### Some of the Faithful

**Henry Peterson** came in 1930 and worked in the H. W. Nickerson store. He and his wife, Olaska, were married in Clyde. She was a choir leader, a good soprano who sang at the 50th Anniversary of the church. Henry was director of the Tuxis boys group. **Hugh Savage** was the first station agent in Clyde. He was a very fine gentleman and for twenty years was very active in the Clyde church. His wife, Jenny, was a beautiful organist and pianist. They had three fine children; Janet, Albert and Thelma.

**Percy G. Davies** came to Clyde in 1929, was an elder in the church and very instrumental as a planner for major church projects in 1949. He also instigated the gathering of a car-load of vegetables from the area to go to the dried out families in the south. His wife, Lilian, too, was a full time worker with the U.C.W.

**George Carew** came in 1916, worked on the church board and did many repair jobs, with no thought for pay, while Olive, his wife, was a faithful U.C.W. member, being secretary-treasurer for twenty-seven years. She and her daughter Irene (Dagg) had the books for forty years. They sang in the choir; Irene had the CGIT group and Sunday School. She was superintendent until Judy Sterling took the position over in 1981. The board presented Irene with a plaque recognizing fifty years of continuous service in the United Church.

**Herbert Robinson** and his wife Dell came to Clyde in 1936. He was a shrewd banker and business man.

He bought H. W. Nickerson's store. Herb was a great joker and story teller and a great help in the United Church. Dell was a born elocutionist and was a big help in the church choir. She acted as president of UCW for many years. They both contributed much to the pleasure of peoples lives. Their passing was a great loss but soon after their death the church was blessed with a new Harmon electric organ in their memory. Harry Farmer of Edmonton played it at its dedication.

**Harold Kinsman** came from Ryrson, Saskatchewan, to become the Searle grain buyer in Clyde. He found time to help his customers with haying and stooking in evenings or off days. He was an excellent book-keeper so took charge of the Clyde Village books in 1945, the Jeffry telephone books and the Clyde school books. He helped arrange curling bonspiel draws. He had a memory far beyond the average man. He was active in sports, an ardent baseball fan, a dependable umpire and enjoyed curling. He acted on the United Church board. He is over eighty years old now and still drives his car. He and his wife, Alice, still reside in Clyde.

**Fred and Bessie Fricker** came to Clyde in 1926 to take over the Imperial Oil bulk station. Fred was a very punctual and caring bus driver. He will always be remembered for his bass voice, as a singer and a fine actor. He was one of a fine quartet, singing bass, while Henry Peterson, a tenor, Art Pratt and Jim Wright made up the four. Bessie was a generous Red Cross worker, organist and choir leader. She carried on her husband's business for many years after his death.

**Walker Wiedrick** built the first store in old Clyde and also had the Post Office. In 1910 **Herman Nickerson** bought the store and built a new one on the new site in 1912. He was a Nova Scotian, was very active in all Clyde happenings, including church duties. In 1942 he resigned as an elder after twenty or more years of service to the church. His wife, Freida, was a very refined lady who did a great deal for the Cradle Roll. She moved to Barrhead to be near her son after her husband's death.

#### History of Pibroch United Church

The first settlers came to the Pibroch District about 1906 and by 1913 there was a log shack on almost every quarter section.

The population of Pibroch was now growing and these settlers decided they needed a meeting place, so in the winter of 1914-1915, they built the little log hall on land donated by Alex Irvine, and called it "Pibroch Farmers' Hall." This was the only hall for miles around, and was used by any group or organization requiring it. It was also the first school.



Prior to 1920, travelling ministers or lay people would come through on horse back and hold meetings in different homes. This was not on a regular basis, but depended on the weather.

In 1920, Reverend M. M. MacLean, the Presbyterian minister, came from Westlock and held services each Sunday, travelling by buggy in the summer and cutter in the winter, accompanied by his faithful horse named "Obadiah." There was a good attendance and a thriving Sunday School. Reverend MacLean was followed by Reverend Peter Dawson, who was only here for a short time.

In 1926, with Church Union, Reverend D. K. Allen came from Westlock to hold services each Sunday. If he was unable to attend, Mr. Hugh Miller or Mr. Robert Smith, who was then editor of The Westlock Witness, would conduct the service. In 1931, Pibroch became part of the Jarvie charge with Reverend T. T. Reikie as minister until 1937. From then, until the church closed in 1970, services were conducted by ordained ministers or theological students from Jarvie. After this, most of the congregation attended the Westlock Church.



Ladies Aid Meeting, Pibroch log church. Mrs. John Roddick, Mrs. E. G. Gamble, Mrs. W. Hough Sr., Miss Emily Proudlove, Mrs. Ivan Nettleton, Mrs. M. Gillies, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Gillies Sr., Lizzie Tate, Mary Gamble, Agnes Gillies, Wilfred Gamble, Stanley Gamble and Mrs. Charlie Gamble with Kathleen on knee.

In 1923, when the new community hall was built, Mr. J. E. Roddick purchased the little log hall and donated it to the Presbyterian Church of Pibroch.

Mr. J. T. Proudlove was the first Superintendent of the Sunday School and taught the Bible class. Other superintendents were Archie Gillies, Hugh Miller, William McCourt and Eric Wahlund. Emily Proudlove, who later became Mrs. Bob Roberts, was organist until her death in 1930. At that time Mrs. Charles Gamble took over this duty and was organist until she left the district in 1944. Mrs. L. Rottier was organist during the later years. The Sunday School was very active and there were many fine teachers.

The Ladies Aid, which later became the United Church Women, was organized following a suggestion by Mrs. M. Gillies and Miss Emily Proudlove and became a very active group. Mrs. J. E. Roddick was the first president and held this office until she left the district approximately twenty-one years later. Other presidents were Mrs. Charles Gamble, Mrs. H. Gamble and Mrs. E. M. Wahlund. They held teas, bazaars, plant sales and suppers to raise money, and for the enjoyment of the community.

The first baby christened in the church was Frank Gamble and the first wedding united Barbara Grier-son and Thomas Taylor.

Over the years there were many concerts and watchnight services held. The church was also used for school, telephone and United Farmers of Alberta meeting. The Plymouth Brethren held their Sunday evening and week day services in it until they built their own church in Westlock.

A new church was started in 1953 and through many donations, financial help from Home Missions and a lot of volunteer labor, the basement was completed in 1961 and services were held in it. Later, with more volunteer labor and financial help, services were held upstairs, but the congregation was so small it closed in 1970 and the church was sold to Mr. P. Nadeau and moved to his farm.

The little log church was given to the Westlock and District Historical Society in 1963. It is now located in the Westlock Exhibition grounds as a historical building.

The downfall of the little rural churches came about when pioneer settlers left their land which was bought by people who were extending their holdings.

## The History of the Pickardville United Church

### Mary Rector

One can hardly write of our church without first giving a bit of the history of our town and paying tribute to the many hardy pioneers who came and bravely faced poverty, illness, bitter cold, months of



loneliness and with much hard labor opened this part of the wilderness. On the list are found such names as Sutherland, McMillan, Pickard, Demers, McLaughlin, Tally, Phillips, Marler, Powell, Racine, French, Lambert, Garon, Holley, Hill, Buchanan, Glebe, Goupie, St. Louis and many more too numerous to mention.

Early in the century Mr. Pickard, a South African War Vet and his family came from England and settled just west of the present Pickardville Coal Mine. A house was made from logs which served not only as their home but also our first store. About 1907 he became our first postmaster. It was in his honor this area was named Pickardville.

In 1911 Mr. Demers whose homestead was located three miles west of the Pickardville corner and is now owned by Norman St. Louis, donated 10 acres of land and a small Catholic church was built on it. Soon after Mr. Demers and his son Joe built the first Pioneer Store there. A blacksmith shop was a must in those days and so Mr. Otis opened one next to the store. When the post office at Pickards was destroyed by fire it was moved to the Pioneer Store. And so the hamlet of Pickardville was started.

The first Pickardville school district was formed in 1912 and a tin schoolhouse was built a mile and half west and a mile south of the present townsite on the farm where Reg Smith now resides.

In the early days circuit preachers visited the pioneers and services were held in their homes. One such man was Rev. Topping. After the school was built services were held there by "Preacher Kelly" of Ray and student ministers sent out by the Methodist and Presbyterian Missions. About 1912 the railroad was built which was a big help to the pioneers. In 1916 Mr. Demers decided to move nearer to the railroad and erected a second Pioneer store where the present one now stands. When this store was destroyed by fire Mr. Demers had the new one built of brick which is owned today by Mr. L. A. Provost. The post office was then taken over by Mr. T. Holley who owned the first hardware, McCormick Deering Agency and sold the first lumber. In 1918 Mr. Gagnon built a store across from the original Pioneer store west of here and after operating it there for only a year decided to also move nearer to the railroad. That building still referred to as the old Red & White store stands today but is no longer in operation.

So the townsite was changed and soon boasted an elevator, 2 stores, Royal Bank, hardware, blacksmith shop, Implement dealers, poolroom, hall and a number of dwellings.

June 14, 1921 the Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church of Pickardville was formed. The object of the society was to "Aid the managers in

raising money to help on the work of the church." Each member paid 25¢ to join and 10¢ a month thereafter. The lunch regulations read, "The members shall take turns in furnishing the lunch, one kind of cake and one kind of sandwiches." The first officers elected were; President — Mrs. H. W. Hill, Vice-Pres. — Mrs. W. Ellstock, Sec.-Treas. — Mrs. R. E. Drayton. Members of the society included Mrs. R. C. Hill, Mrs. T. A. Powell, Mrs. T. Holley, Mrs. H. Metcalf, Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. R. Townsend, Mrs. C. Townsend, Mrs. F. Dickenson, Miss. D. Brown, Mrs. T. Buchanan. Mrs. P. J. Lemausurie, Mrs. V. Metcalf, Mrs. W. Sutherland, Mrs. T. P. Gillmore, Mrs. T. Pollard and Miss M. A. Pollard. What a hard working bunch of women they were and tried every means to make money. They made and sold quilts, had concerts, lantern slides, picnics, pie socials, every kind of teas, chicken suppers and sale of handwork. March 14, 1922 at their tenth meeting it was moved \$75.00 be given as their first share in the Busby Manse Fund. So it would seem even back then plans were made for one minister to serve both churches. In places I found their minutes very vague such as this one of January 9, 1923, "it was moved by Mrs. Metcalf that we would sell the horse for as **much** as we can get." What horse? There was never further mention of it.

By 1923 the protestants of the area decided the time had come to have a church of their own but the question was, "Where to build it." Mr. J. Glebe was approached and agreed to donate a portion of his land for the church. April 1923 Lot 11 Block 3 officially became the property of the Presbyterian Church of Pickardville. The first trustees were, Edwin Metcalf, John Buchanan, John Glebe, Robert Hill and Thomas Holley. The records of the church from its origin in 1923 to 1929 have been lost but I am told some of the men who helped with the building besides the trustees were, F. Glebe, Powell, Watson, Wiley, Measures, Gillmore, Townsends, McLaughlin, Stone, Gower, Hill and Cromie. While helping shingle Mr. Cromie contacted pneumonia and passed away soon after. On the lighter side one gentleman was asked to help and said he would if he didn't have to work with another certain gentleman. I gather the pioneers were no different than those of today!

May 6, 1923 the church was opened for worship by Captain Graham who remained until the summer of 1925.

With the church now built the Ladies Aid doubled their efforts to raise money to pay for a stove, stovepipes and an organ. Some prices are interesting to note, \$1.25 — \$1.75 for a dress, 50 — 90¢ for aprons, \$1.50 for socks, \$1.00 a month janitor ser-



vice, a heating stove \$2.75 and a Minute book \$3.00. March 1924 they planned a concert, pie social and fish pond and among other things the secretary was advised to buy a 25¢ packet of gas mantles "In case of accident." This affair must have been a success for soon after Mr. Holley was paid \$3.65 for stovepipes, Mr. Neilson of Westlock \$40.00 for seats for the church and Capt. Graham \$20.00 back salary. I gather Mrs. Brown was hard pressed for money at one time and couldn't pay her dues so "It was moved we take the waist for Mrs. Brown's dues." With no further explanation one is left wondering if it was safe to attend the meetings if you were broke! The Ladies Aid at Busby was at times invited to the meetings here and they in turn were guests of the Busby ladies and enjoyed exchanging ideas for raising the ever needed money.

One and possibly the first wedding in the church was that of Anne Rosendale and Jack Forsyth a young grain buyer for the Tupper Elevator. When the newly weds left the church a number of friends were waiting with my dad's two wheeled cart used for hauling mail from the train to the post office, and into this the young couple were deposited and with much merriment wheeled down the street to the hall for their wedding celebration. Both were very good sports about the whole thing. Until they left here in 1940 both took an active part in the church.

Rev. P. K. McRae arrived in the summer of 1925 and left in the fall of 1926.

In 1926 a school was being built in Pickardville but was not ready for occupancy so from about Easter until the end of June classes were held in the church with Mrs. J. Forsyth as a teacher. I had just started school and if my memory serves me right I spent more time in the corner than in my desk.

When Rev. McRae left George Young a student minister took the service until the arrival of Rev. R. R. Hinchy in October 1927. I am told he travelled on horseback and also worked on threshing crews in the Pickardville area.

Mr. J. Stone was the first Sunday School Superintendent and Mrs. C. Townsend and Mr. F. Dickenson the first teachers. Thomas Townsend now of Burnaby B.C. was one of the first pupils and tells me he still has a book presented to him on January 18, 1925 by the Presbyterian Sunday School and a small bible he received for perfect attendance in the Pickardville United Church Sunday School Christmas 1927. So although there are no records we know sometime between those two dates the Presbyterian church ceased to be. In 1929 Mrs. Townsend who was then Sunday School Superintendent became ill and Mr. Anthony Smith very ably took over her work.

A Womans Auxiliary was formed but even with

the two ladies groups working for the church when the annual meeting was held in January 1929 the ministers salary was \$80.00 in arrears and the church in debt \$177.95. In June of that year the church was again having financial difficulties and as Rev. Hinchy was leaving money was loaned by Mr. Logue to pay his salary. A canvas was made of the district and the money collected enabled them to carry on.

Rev. J. Howard began his services here July 1, 1929 and when the annual meeting was held in 1930 things looked much more promising. Mrs. Faulks reported the Sunday School showed a good attendance and had raised \$47.00 and with what the two ladies groups had earned the church debt was down to \$45.00.

December 1930 the ladies of the congregation held a meeting and decided the Womans Auxiliary and the Ladies Aid would work as a whole instead of two separate bodies. The newly formed group was named the Woman's Association. The Ladies Aid withdrew their funds from the bank and paid the \$16.00 insurance owing on the church and donated the remaining \$1.37 to the church Christmas fund. Officers elected in the new group were, Hon. Pres. — Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Howard, Pres. — Mrs. W. Sutherland, Vice-Pres. Mrs. Brown and Sec.-Treas. Mrs. H. W. Hill. The newly formed group then set to work to raise money to support the church. Bazaars were planned, teas and an old fashioned harvest supper with admission: Adults 35¢ and school children 20¢. \$5.00 today wouldn't cover the meal you got then for 35¢.

In 1931 Mr. and Mrs. R. Smith moved to our district and Mrs. Smith who had played the pipe organ for church in England prior to coming to Canada in 1913 became the church organist, a position she held for years.

Mr. Smith was also a very active church member and when a Glee Club was formed in the early 30's became famous for his acting and especially for one song, "What Kind A Flower Is a Mop" which he sang in one of the three act comedies staged each year. The plays were also presented at Hazel Bluff, Busby etc. no doubt many will still remember such as "A Bold Front" when poor Mr. Holley lost his dentures, Marrying Marion and my favorite "Here Comes Charlie". I was privileged to be one of the youngest members and remember how I secretly yearned to play the part of Charlie, who by the way was a girl, and how my heart sank when the part was given to a bit older member. I'm sure I never wished her any bad luck but when her appendix had to come out and I was asked if I thought I could play Charlie — I was the happiest girl in all Canada. The money

made by the Glee Club helped build the church kitchen and paid for the piano still in use.

We were most fortunate in having Mr. and Mrs. A. Wotherspoon in our group. Mrs. Wotherspoon was not only an accomplished pianist but a beautiful singer and our choir which she led was one of the best for miles around. The church congregation was treated not only to the weekly anthems, duets and solos but also Easter Cantatas etc. Wotherspoons owned a large friendly dog who tried hard to become a christian and attended church whenever possible only to be booted out in a most unchristian manner. However one warm Sunday morning the door was left open and as Mrs. Forsyth and I stood before the congregation singing a duet the dog happily entered the church and joined us at the front. After much tail wagging he sat down at my feet and I had visions of our duet ending in a trio with his help, but satisfied I suppose that we were merely singing and not being murdered he left.

Through the years Sunday School has been an important part of our church. Many of the public school teachers offered their services which were greatly appreciated. A Girls' Club was started by Miss L. Fleming and one for the boys by Mr. R. McCready and their work was carried on by others such as Mr. J. McAulay and Mr. S. Dineen. It is only fitting we pay tribute to them and to such old timers as Mrs. Townsend, Mr. F. Dickenson, Mr. Stone, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Gillmore, Smith, Holley, Faulks and especially Mrs. W. Sutherland. For many years that good woman walked to church from her farm home regardless of the extremes in weather to carry on her work with the children of the Sunday School.

Rev. R. H. McPherson was our minister from July 12, 1931 to July 7 1935 when his place was taken by Rev. W. P. Laird from July 1935 to 1939.

In August 1938 a letter was received from the Pickardville School Board stating they were in need of a temporary building for about two months for use as a high school and asked for the use of the church until the new school was completed. The rent money received was welcome as the church was to be renovated. I believe it was at this time the porch was built on the front doing away with the cloakroom which stood directly in front of the door blocking the way and making it awkward to move things in or out especially at such times as funerals when it was necessary to use the back door.

Rev. A. T. Young held his first service here July 23, 1939 and his last June 25, 1944 and he was to be the last ordained man for some years to serve this charge with the exception of Rev. Ileen James our first lady minister who was here from 1951 to 1954.

Ministers salaries were not too high and often slow in being paid in the early days which made it necessary for some to rely on horses for travel. How well I remember one and I am sure he never forgot my father. We had been visiting at Busby and on the way home ran into a mudhole in the muskeg near Trails End School and our car sank down to the running boards in it. Dad had been working for sometime and making little headway when the minister came driving up in a democrat and told him, "If he would just set his car aside he would drive by." Dad was about fit to be tied and I'd like to bet the sermon he gave that minister was more full of hellfire and brimstone than any that poor man ever delivered.

Student ministers serving this charge from 1944-1972 were; A. Chapman, E. Miller, F. Chubb, G. Betts, J. Veitch, G. Whitford, D. McQuarrie., W. Shortt and a layman J. Nicholas.

In 1951 the Ladies Aid paid to have the doors of the church and porch altered. When gas was to be installed in the church the Ladies Aid made plans to sell the piano to pay for it but this idea was objected to and the money was raised by holding social events, amateur programs etc. Gas was installed in 1955 and the piano is still in use and a fitting memorial to the members of the Glee Club who have since passed away.

When Mrs. R. Smith was unable to carry on as organist her place was taken by Doris Richardson who performed that duty faithfully for a number of years and then was relieved by our present pianist Olive Breadon. Times changed and several protestant families left the district and interest in the church was very low. A choir under the leadership of Sylvie Smith sparked a bit more interest for awhile but eventually that too failed and church attendance dropped to almost nil. Through efforts by Bob McLaughlin the Sunday School flourished. Finally the church kitchen was renovated and Sunday School classes held there at the same time as the church service. Interest was again shown in the church. The choir started by Gerry Kine was a big help but the family moved to Westlock and the choir was dropped. Following Bob, Esther Brown took over and proved to also be a very capable Sunday School Superintendent. Today that position is held by Lyda Toth. With the help of her teachers Joan Sutherland, Vera Brown and Lilley Glebe the large attendance of pupils speak only too well of the interest and enjoyment found in their classes. Each year the congregation is treated to their Rally Day program and enjoy their participation in the Christmas Eve service.

Old Timers such as Granny Gower, Mrs. Wiedrick, Mrs. Weaver, Mrs. Logue, Mrs. G.



Smith, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. White and Mrs. De Alexandra and many more who were such faithful members of the Ladies Aid in years gone by would be very proud of our U.C.W. today. They provided a top quality catering service and are well known for the splendid bazaar tea and Rummage sales held each spring and fall. On this occasion they are joined by the Busby U.C.W. who add their bazaar work and sell a mountain of delicious home baking.

In the last few years new pews have replaced the old, a rug and runner have been installed and money from the Memorial Fund has purchased light fixtures hymn books, offering plates etc. After all these years a church sign has been erected outside. The interior of the church has been replastered and newly painted and plans made for further improvements. All this has given our little church a new lease on life and as we prepare to celebrate its anniversary find it enjoying good health and looking forward to giving another fifty years of faithful service.

In 1972 the old Busby Pastorial Charge which had existed for so many years was dissolved and Pickardville became part of the newly formed Westlock and District Pastorial Charge under the team ministry of Rev. Mina Pool and Rev. Frank Andrews.

To the many kind friends who have submitted information making it possible for me to write this account of our church goes my humble thanks. To the church I dedicate the following;

Oh little church you've served us well  
For all these many years  
And shared with us our happy times,  
Our sadness and our fears.

We've come to you with troubled hearts  
Guilty of some sin,  
And found your doors were opened wide  
To welcome sinners in.

Now as we proudly celebrate  
Those years so quickly past,  
We pray the faith of our pioneers  
Forever more shall last.

And in the years that are to come  
May your walls ever be  
A shelter from the stormy blast  
Throughout eternity.

Mary Rector

## **The United Church of Westlock by Mrs. Bentley**

The Westlock Presbyterian and Methodist Churches decided to be united in 1924, a year before church union became official. It was put to a vote of the members of each congregation. The vote was clearly in favor of union.

Each congregation appointed a committee of three to decide whether we should call a Methodist or Presbyterian minister. The committee agreed to call Rev. McLean who was the Presbyterian Minister in Westlock at the time. This met with the approval of both congregations.



Westlock United Church.

Land was acquired on main street and we started afresh with a good basement in which we worshipped for many years. Mr. and Mrs. George MacKinlay (Mrs. Bentley's parents) were buried from that basement and the first wedding held there was that of Mary Bentley and Jack Stibbards.

Superintendent of the United Church Sunday School was W. J. McCullough, secretary Harold Brown and treasurer, Arthur Bentley. From 1925 to 1950 they had a terrific Sunday school with a really good group of teachers. The Christmas concert was always a highlight. It was held in the basement and Mr. McTavish was the best Santa Claus. At one time Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Robert Smith put on a musical evening with the children which was very successful. Also Mr. McCullough had the junior choir and with the help of Mrs. Gordon, the minister's wife, and some teachers, put on an operetta called "Green Cheese". It was a great success. One thing which must be mentioned is the wonderful teaching provided to both boys and girls in our Sunday school by Mrs. Annie Sutherland. She is remembered to this day by those students though they are now of middle ages. Also the faithful work of Mrs. McEachern, and Mabel Smith over all the years. Thus from all our efforts rose an amicable and healthy United Church of which we were proud. I was president of the Ladies' Aid from 1923 to 1926 and I think Madge Smith was the first baby baptized in the new church basement. In 1925 Mr. J. I. Watt



First United Church Ladies' Aid Meeting, 1925. Back row: ?, ?, French, ?, Neilson, Nash, Selfridge, Mrs. Fred Westgate and baby. Centre row: ?, Grace Bentley and David, Overton, Mrs. Jack, Mrs. Beatt, ?, Griswold. Front row: Patterson, Campbell, Stanton, ?, ?, Mrs. Wheatley, ?.

was a voting delegate to Toronto where church union followed.

The story of events following union as recorded here is taken from two papers delivered by Mrs. Ponting. The first is dated May 1956, a 30th anniversary, the second from October 1959.

**by E. Ponting**

I consider it a great honor to be asked to give the history of the Westlock United Church as my father, the late Rev. D. K. Allan, was the first Minister called to the church. His pastorate was from 1926 to 1933.

After union, which took place in 1925, the former Presbyterian Minister, the Rev. M. M. McLean and the Methodist Minister, the Rev. Mr. Huston carried on the services here alternating morning and evening.

Our family arrived here on July 1st 1926 after the completion of a hazardous trip from the very most south-westerly point on the Alberta boundary, in a new Ford car, which my father had driven for three weeks before we started out. We came up the Calgary-Edmonton highway which was being gravelled that year and was torn up most of the way. We finally negotiated our way through Edmonton and headed north. As we travelled along we would enquire if this was the road to Westlock and the answer always seemed the same (I think you can get there by following this road). Mile after mile went by. We finally



United Church Women's Association. Late 1950's. L to R, back row: Louise Van Dresar, Marion Kirby, Margaret Currie, Isabel Andrews, Jennie McLean, Libby Hunter, Mrs. Crone Sr. Front row: Marion Sutherland, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Roy, Gladys Doherty, Lil Crone, Mrs. Smetheram.

came to the Dios Smith corner and we were glad to see the village before us.

The Church at that time was on the S.E. corner of 99th avenue and 104th street. Early in the fall of 1928 the Church burned down. Immediately plans were under way for a new Church, and Mr. C. C. Jorgenson, father of Bob Jorgenson, donated lots where the church now stands. In a cutting from the Westlock Witness of July 25th, 1929, it tells of a terrific wind storm which came up at the noon hour blowing down the roof and causing the walls to bulge.



Thinking back to the night when the old church burned, there my parents and members of the congregation stood with tears in their eyes seeing their hopes dashed to the ground and wondering what the future would hold. That very night a lady in the crowd, not a church member, came up to my father and said, "Mr. Allan, I will give you a cheque in the morning to start a new church." Often times my father recalled this incident and I often used to think, "Wasn't it wonderful what she did?" I am sure my father's mind often wandered back to Mrs. Cardinell and her spontaneous gesture.



United Church Sunday School, Westlock, 1938.

Finally on the 6th of October, 1929 the Church basement was opened and dedicated to the worship of God, by the late Dr. A. S. Tuttle, then principal of St. Stephens College. It is interesting to note that Madge Smith was the first baby baptized by my father in the church that day.

In June, 1933 the Rev. J. Thomas Gordon was called to this charge. I remember when he arrived. Numbered among his worldly possessions were a cow and a few pure bred chickens. It was purely an economy measure as he had a family of growing boys to feed and we were still in the midst of the depression years. Mr. Gordon's health gave way and he was forced to give up the ministry.

The Rev. W. H. Moss and family arrived in 1937 to carry on the work of the Church. It was during his ministry on May 18th 1941, that we moved into the upper part of the church. It was a great day. Impressive dedication services, conducted by the late Dr. F. S. McCall of Alberta College, brought to a happy consummation the efforts of the Westlock United Church people to move to the upper room of their lovely church home.

**An insert here:** Sitting in the congregation that day, the morning sunlight filtering through the beautiful stained glass windows, our hearts were lifted as we listened to Mrs. E. F. Henderson singing "Bless This House, O Lord, We Pray."

The Rev. W. D. Race came in 1942 and we had excellent years under his guidance. In 1946 the Rev. John S. Clark was called to this pastorate on his graduation from St. Stephens College. He hustled and bustled us around and the first thing we knew we had new pews in the church and a new electric organ was installed. Long Island Camp was established during his term. He was an excellent speaker and referred to the church as the Holy Catholic Church! I used to think he did it just to see the startled look on the members faces.

When the Rev. J. W. Bainbridge arrived in 1951 they were ready to sit and enjoy a very pleasant and satisfying pastorate. The years were growing arduous from Mrs. Bainbridge and himself. He later became assistant minister of Robertson United Church and on the third Sunday of the month he could be heard in their morning service broadcast on C.F.R.N.

In 1955 the Rev. W. G. and Mrs. Crane came to us from Selkirk, Manitoba. It was during this time that we laid plans for building a new manse.

When the Rev. W. P. Smetheram arrived in 1956, we were without a manse as the old one had been sold and the new manse was not quite ready. Early in 1957, the manse was finished and dedicated on the 28th of January. Recently we traded in our old electric organ and a new Hammond organ was installed which is a great asset to the musical part of our church.

This concluded the historical story in Mrs. Ponting's papers.

Mr. Smetheram stayed until the spring of 1963, when Rev. Terry Anderson and his family came to occupy the manse and look after pastoral care until another minister could be called. In September of that year the Rev. Ted Kolber and his family arrived staying until 1968 when he left to pursue his studies in California. Ted Kolber's family members were his wife, Marie, and their three sons, Christopher, Terry and David.

The Rev. Walter Judge followed the Kolbers. Rev. Judge came west with a missionary zeal that bordered 'bringing in the light' to darkest Alberta. His stay in Westlock was preceded and followed by short tenure, in three other small rural communities in this province. In total his stay in the Alberta conference was less than ten years, four of which were in Westlock. The Judge family was comprised of Christine (wife and mother), daughters Harriet and Melanie and son Teddy. While here Rev. Judge re-organized the Westlock, Jarvie and Busby pastoral charges into one large Westlock and District charge under a team ministry. Unfortunately Mr. Judge left

Westlock prior to the new concept becoming operational.

The team ministry now serves the whole Westlock area. Two ministers provide services to all points still operating. This had proved to be a good arrangement for both Westlock and the area churches.

Mina Pool and Frank Andrews came in 1977, and were the first to be in the team ministry. After Frank Andrews, Harold MacDonald came and was here one year, then Mina Pool and Harold MacDonald were replaced by Cecil Patey in Westlock in July, 1978. His charge was Westlock only. Cecil Patey and family were here until Nov. 1982. The United Church at Westlock was without a Minister until James Reeb came on July 24, 1983.

This history of the United Church of Westlock was taken from the history written of the United Church entitled "The First Fifty Years" with the kind permission of Mrs. E. Ponting and Mrs. S. Cross.

### **Westlock Gospel Chapel submitted by Wm. Fairholm**

In 1924 a little group of Christians felt the need of gathering together for fellowship, and to remember the Lord according to His request in the night He was betrayed.

Under the guidance and help of Brother Walter Farmer, a little group gathered in the Calderwood home, one mile south and 2½ east of Pibroch. Over the years, other Brethren came to encourage and feed the "little flock", among them were A. R. Stephenson, Wm. Wilson and Wm. Rae.

In 1931 Wm. Fairholm came and had an evangelistic campaign in the little log church at Pibroch.

A number came to know the Lord and were added to the little group who gathered in the Calderwood home. During the summer, 14 were baptized in the Pembina River at Antonsons, among them some of the Thomson, Taylor and Hough families.

In the winter of 1933 Alf Wallace joined Wm. Fairholm, and another series of Gospel meetings were held. Later in the spring the Wallaces purchased land in the Pibroch district and were a great help to the church in the Calderwood home.

After dear Mr. and Mrs. Calderwood went home to glory, the senior Wallaces moved into the Calderwood home and the meetings continued there and in the community church at Pibroch. A Sunday School was started in the Woodlands Hall, with Alf Wallace as superintendant.

Each year a conference was held at Woodlands and later moved to Pibroch, when Christians from the surrounding areas came, some from as far away as Boyle, Neerlandia and Edmonton. What happy times of Christian fellowship were enjoyed as the people of God joined together in praise to God and fed upon the word of God ministered by visiting brethren, among them was John Sommacal who became a co-worker with Wm. Fairholm for years.

An added outreach of the assembly was the start of Bethel Bible Camp in 1945. A piece of land was purchased from Andy Christensen, along the Pembina River just opposite the Nelson Letts farm. God set His seal of approval upon it right from the start, providing abundantly and sometimes almost miraculously for all the needs of the camp, both in its construction and operation. After 39 years of continuous operation it can be said to the glory of God, "that He has supplied all our needs". Never once did the years' camp land up in the red. No solicitation of funds were made to man, but our requests were to God, Who hears and answers prayer. We do give Him the glory and the praise.

More than the temporal needs being met, there was the spiritual impact upon the lives of many. The first one saved was Janet McDougall who later trained as a nurse, and felt called of God to serve Him in Africa. Others too who were reached for the Lord at Bethel, and are now serving Him, are Keith Bidne, Lu Krikke, and Dave and Connie Redekop. Those from the Westlock Assembly — the Taylor families — Dan at home, Robert in Edmonton, Jim in Calgary and Rob in Africa. Surely God has done great things for us whereof we are glad!

By 1948 the meeting had grown so, that the Wallace home was crowded out so the assembly decided to build. A lot was procured in Westlock on the corner of 104 street and 102 avenue. A Building 50 feet by 30 feet was planned and erected, all by



Bethel Bible Camp, 1962.





Group on the lawn of the Wallace home.

voluntary labour. Mr. Wallace, being a carpenter, supervised the construction, the only professional help hired was for the electrical wiring.

When it was opened in 1949, everything was paid for with no loans or debts. Surely God put the seal of His approval upon the work, not only in provision for

the building but also in the help and blessings many have received within its four walls.

Through the blessing of God, by 1968 the work had grown so, that it was necessary to build on, and another 30 feet was added, making the present building 80 feet by 30, which is usually fairly full each Lords' day.

The assembly continues with strong emphasis of work among the young, and we pray "the Lord will command His blessing, even life for evermore."

Our desire is that the Westlock Gospel Chapel will continue to be the birthplace of many into the kingdom of God, a place of fellowship for the people of God, a school for the young, so they may grow in the knowledge of God, and a hospital for the spiritually sick so they may find restoration, health and maturity.

We raise our "Ebenezer" and say "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

## Hazel Bluff Church

by Maisie Platt

There's a little church that nestles,  
 With its doorway facing east,  
 And it overlooks the dearest spot  
 Where our many loved ones rest.  
 The hands that framed and built it  
 Now sleep beneath the sod,  
 But to we who know its story,  
 'Tis a treasured house of God.  
 It has seen our babies christened  
 And our sons and daughters wed,  
 It has heard our anguished weeping  
 When we parted from the dead.  
 Through our lives we'll ever love it,  
 In our hearts no spot can ever be  
 So blessed or so holy  
 To many such as we.  
 And even though we worship  
 In another church more grand,  
 We seem closer to our Savior  
 By that little piece of land,  
 Where sleep our many loved ones;  
 And we offer up a prayer  
 That when God calls our souls home,  
 They will lay our bodies there,  
 Beside that humble little church,  
 With its ever welcome door,  
 To rest in peace eternal  
 With our loved ones evermore.

# Clubs and Organizations

## A Nice Place to "Drop In"

by George Hoke

Today's senior citizens come from a time when social functions were the only relief from the day to day work load, so now that federal and provincial grants have become available, seniors have established their own "drop-in" centres wherever there are enough oldtimers to make such a place feasible.

At least one can be found in every town of a respectable size, and there are several in each city. Some of the newer buildings are beautiful; some of the older ones are a little less beautiful but are still very comfortable.

At the Golden Age Club drop-in centre at Westlock, Alberta, there is a slogan; "We are retired but we are not idle."

The centre now has 4000 square feet of floor space. There are rooms for card tables, dancing and meetings. The new 1981 addition, called the Pioneer Room, is the games room. It is equipped with pool tables, discing lanes (discing is a floor version of curling), carpet bowling lanes and a shuffleboard. The building is open to members every afternoon except Sunday. On at least two days a week every facility is in high gear from one to four o'clock.

Westlock and District's Golden Age Club was founded in 1969 with a nucleus of twenty-five members. The first building, formerly a bodyshop for car and truck repairs, was purchased and renovated by the members with financial help from the town and surrounding municipality. In 1981, when grants became more easily available, and the increasing membership had donated substantially, a new annex was joined to the existing drop-in centre. Even so, that was not enough.

The government granting agencies and the many outside donors of money, all helped to build a beautiful centre, and then said, in effect, "There you are — now go ahead and run it."

Then the members really began to show their mettle. There were gas bills, water bills, power bills, cleaning and all the other small things necessary to

keep the drop-in centre going. The club, now with over two hundred members, took up the challenge. Utilities cost an average of \$200 every month. Committees were formed — a building and grounds committee, games committee, kitchen, paper depot, cleaning, dance, even a welcoming committee to make guest clubs feel at home!

All able members are subject to service on committees. Every day two women look after the kitchen. Every day two men serve at the paper depot, bundling old newspaper for shipping to market. No one is required to serve more than a couple of hours a month to get the work done.

For daily lunch at three p.m., a member drops a quarter into the "cheese bottle" bank and helps himself to coffee, fresh buns with spread, and perhaps some cake donated that day by one of the ladies. The kitchen clears about \$100 a month from those quarters. Paper sells at \$30 a ton (less \$10 freight) and this adds over \$2000 a year to the treasury. Arts and crafts are also a revenue source.

Those unable to contribute to the physical work help out in other ways. One lady donates all the coffee used in the kitchen, which costs her over a hundred dollars a year.

Participation and dedication are keys to the success of the club.

## Alberta's Women's Institute — Who Are We?

by Mrs. Annie Price

Let us for the moment turn back a few decades to the time when the first settlers came to the new found land, CANADA. It held the promise and potential for both home and country. As men and women strove in quest of their tasks, there were challenges for each generation to deal with.

Adelaide Hoodless was such a woman from the Wentworth County, Ontario. She lost an infant son whose cause of death was due to drinking impure milk. She set about to do all within her power to help to bring about to others the necessity of preventing



such tragedies. With the help of Mr. Erland Lee, she arranged a meeting, with herself as guest speaker. Over 100 women came to hear her. They recognized their need for education on health and homemaking and child care. The founding organization of **Women's Institute** came about that evening in 1897. Records from the first minutes of that meeting quote: "A nation cannot rise above the level of its' homes, therefore, we women must work and study together to raise our homes to the highest level". There in a nutshell is the real purpose for which the W.I. was organized. This single acorn planted in 1897 has grown to a mighty tree. Its growth and influence has carried across Canada and overseas to 64 countries.

The country women in earlier years had many problems and no one to turn to for help, so by getting together once a month to talk things over, they could improve their knowledge in areas of health, homemaking and child care. It would also fulfill a need for



Echo Hill Women's Institute, 1949 or 1950. Back row, L to R: Evelyn McMillan, Ida McMillan, Clara Brown, Freda McConaghy, Ella Seibert, Mary Squair, Kitty McMillan, Caroline Schmode, Ruth Seibert, ?. Front row: Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Martel, (above her) Lila Johnson, Rose Arndt, Margaret McMillan, Lu Yeomans, Mabel Wiedrick, ?.

companionship and friendship of other women who were isolated from each other and were lonely. Whether they rode on horseback, or even walked, they attended the meeting. It was the highlight of the month for them, (no babysitters in those days).

This is a stressful world in which we live and the W.I. members are concerned with relieving the stress which is wearing us down.

**Men!** Encourage your wives to join the W.I. They will be better wives and mothers and better helpmates for being a member.

In Alberta the first branch was formed in 1909 at Lloydminster. The first President was Mrs. Emily Murphy (Janey Canuck) who also was the first woman magistrate in the British Empire. One of her outstanding triumph was the long sought recognition of women as persons, and not chattels. This was made law in 1930.

In 1919 the Federated Women's Institute of Canada was organized. In 1933 the International Associated Women of the World (A.C.W.W.) was formed and they meet triannually in different countries such as Africa, Sweden, Germany, Australia to mention a few. Today there are over nine million associated members around the world in 64 countries. In Alberta the membership is over 2900.

A Federated Conference was held in Fredericton N.B. in 1982 and the 1983 TriAnnual ACWW Conference will be held in Vancouver, B.C.

All W.I.'s have donated to "Wells for Kenya", sewing machines for Bangladesh, and eye glasses for India and many other projects over the years.

The local Women's Institute hold an annual District Conference every spring, where there is a competition between the branches in home cooking and handicraft.

Our Motto is "**FOR HOME AND COUNTRY!**"

#### **Busby W.I.:**

The Woman's Institute of Busby was established in the year of 1916. Unfortunately some records are lost or in some cases burned in home fires, so we cannot give the names of the Charter members, but I am sure they were very active then as they are now. At the present time there are 13 members. Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month.

We cater to weddings etc., donate trophies to the local 4-H clubs, give cards and parcels to the local residents of Busby and District who are in hospital. This job is handled by our sick convenor. We also have a Christmas Supper for our members' families and the pensioners of the district during the festive season of Christmas. We donate different items to our hall at Busby. We have an annual day out when all the members get together and enjoy a day of fun. We give the Busby School and the community leagues money for Christmas treats for the children. The first catering job was for George and Ivy McMillans' wedding 23 years ago.

#### **Pickardville W.I.:**

The Pickardville W.I. was organized in January 1923 with the following members: Mrs. T. P. Gilmore, Mrs. T. H. Gower, Mrs. C. Lambert, Mrs. Bert Sutherland, Mrs. Robert Logue, Mrs. Bob Hill, Mrs. R. White, Mrs. Tom Pollard, Mrs. Sam Yeomans Sr. They disbanded in 1950 but re-organized



May 21st in 1953 with Pres. Mrs. Charlotte Gower, Sec. Mrs. Jean Anhorn and 12 members. All the early records were lost. Over the years the members have been very community minded and have worked hard and have done many things which have helped in many ways; such as giving treats for the school children at Christmas when Pickardville had its two schools; Curling trophies; and furnishings for the rink kitchen; kitchen lino and cups for the community hall and 4-H trophies.

When Jim Jarvis opened the first Auction Mart in our area these women served lunch (including home-made pies) every Tuesday for several years. They sold wiping rags, and held Halloween Dances and Mother's Day teas in the hall. The Pickardville W.I. spear-headed drives to raise money to buy a new piano and book cases when the Pembina Lodge opened. They also bought a hearing aid for one of their members. A cookbook was published by them to celebrate their 50th Anniversary.

In 1956 the members gave Mrs. T. Gower a Life Membership of the A.W.I. in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Institute work in the community.

In 1980 they gave Mrs. Barbara Pollard a Life Membership in Pickardville W.I. in appreciation of her unstinting efforts and activities in W.I.

There are around sixty ladies who have been members of the W.I. over these sixty years of its existence and many of them have taken an active part in the Mid-Pembina Constituency and in the A.W.I. Some few have been members continuously, active for more than a quarter of a century. Others enjoyed fellowship for just a few months while they lived in the area. There is not room here to record all the names, but each has contributed her wee bit to make life happier in the greater Pickardville District.

#### **Pibroch W.I.**

Pibroch W.I. was organized in 1938. Mrs. H. Smith (District Convenor) and four ladies from Westlock were present. First officers elected were: President — Mrs. Frank Eakin, Vice. Pres. — Mrs. Wm. Stobie, Sec. Treas. — Mrs. James Rimmer, Directors — Mrs. F. Kalmbach, Mrs. Montney. First Constituency Conference attended was at Echo Hill in 1938. Mrs. J. Rimmer was our delegate. The highlight of our W.I. was the war effort; parcels for the boys in the forces overseas as well as those stationed in Canada. We worked for the Red Cross making ditty bags for the Navy boys and many other projects.

We celebrated our 25th anniversary in 1963 inviting members from other W.I.'s.

Our membership during the war years averaged 12. There were more people in the district then.

Today's membership is six and four of these are senior citizens.

Many of the charter members are in Alberta and B.C. but none in this area. Their numbers are small, but you may be sure they all do their part and contribute in many ways in the community.

#### **Westlock W.I.:**

The Westlock W.I. was organized on October 18th, 1919. Mrs. Rogers from Fort Saskatchewan came to Westlock and explained to the ladies what the W.I. was all about. The first members were: Pres. — Mrs. R. Wheatley, Sec. Mrs. G. Bentley, Mrs. L. Campbell, Mrs. Gardam, Mrs. Fred Griswold, Mrs. Travers, Mrs. McIntosh, Mrs. Alan Neilson, Mrs. G. Diefenbough, Mrs. Nash, Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Selfridge. (By the way, Mrs. G. Bentley says she wasn't a charter member because she gave birth to a baby that day, but everyone agrees she was a charter member). After all the family comes first! Don't you agree?

We met once a month in different homes, and oh! those gorgeous lunches. We didn't have any money, but decided to have dances on special evenings such as Valentine's Day, which was a masquerade; New Years' with novelties, Halloween etc. The object was twofold, first to raise money for our projects, and secondly the dances filled a social need. These were held in the Farmers' Hall which now is the theatre. During the summer months we had ice-cream socials, which was a sure sign of a rain storm.

We collected clothes for needy people as far north as Flatbush. Women would write to us and order their needs as if we were Eatons and ask for things such as "1 pair of drawers size 42, a baby's barrow/coat, felt socks for Father" etc . . .

In 1922 we had a millinery and dress making classes instructed by Miriam Elston from Alberta College. We made ourselves some wonderful hats. Another year we learned to weave baskets from willow reeds. (These were terrible things to collect dust.)

We visited the local hospital and woe betide anyone who didn't fulfill their duties. New comers were visited, and at times the W.I. supplied flour and other staples; even meat roasts. Christmas hampers were made up for needy families and toys included if possible.

Our main purpose was to improve our homes; so many ideas were exchanged. We also tried to help new immigrants to adapt to a new country by visiting them and encouraging them to return our visits and come to our meetings. We made layettes; baby sets were knitted and crib quilts made. Books were bought for school libraries as reading material was



scarce. Where there was a need the W.I. did their best to fill it.

In later years we provided wheel chairs at a very nominal fee to those temporarily confined to a chair. These things are now provided, so we look farther afield and contribute to projects such as "Wells for Kenya", sewing machines for Bangladesh and land rovers for underprivileged countries where transportation was needed in connection with health and education. All W.I.'s have taken part in these projects so our horizons are ever widening. "Home and Country" are foremost but, we must expand beyond that.

Our Westlock W.I. has its own project "Operation Eyesight". Discarded eye glasses are collected and sent to India. We contribute money every year to this also. A ten dollar bill pays for a cataract operation on one eye in such countries as India, Africa and so on.

We sometimes feel that we have outgrown our usefulness. Not so! There always is more to do!

**Echo Hill W.I.**

As near as can be determined from early records at the A.W.I. office in Edmonton, the Echo Hill W.I. was organized February 19th, 1936. The following are thought to be the original charter members: Mrs. W. Spencer, Mrs. C. McConaghy, Mrs. H. Seibert, Mrs. R. May, Mrs. R. Johnson, Mrs. W. Spencer, Mrs. W. Kibblewhite, Mrs. R. Lawley. It is thought the first officers were: Pres. Mrs. W. Spencer, Vice Pres. — Mrs. H. Seibert, Sec. Treas. — Mrs. C. McConaghy. A few other ladies joined later and it is thought there were from 13 to 16 members. Over the years the numbers have changed, but at the moment we have twelve very willing members. Seven of us are senior citizens, but the younger ones make up in enthusiasm for what we have lost, but we still hold our own end up. All of the branches have had their ups and downs of course, but we have carried on. If some of the charter members were here they could tell us of the earlier happenings but I am sure the monthly meeting meant a lot to them whatever the mode of transportation used. Our husbands were very loyal too and many times took time off from their work to drive us to different homes for the meeting which was held the first Wednesday of every month.

Like all of the other branches we also have contributed to A.W.I. projects so will not repeat them again.

Many of our members have been active from 35 to 46 years, so they know what it is all about.

In 1960 we planned a farm safety program and placed red reflective tape on over 200 pieces of farm machinery in our area. Each member going to the

farms and placing the tape on five pieces of machinery free of charge. We also bought and installed stop signs etc. for our area. For this we won second prize from the Shell Oil Company; receiving a plaque and \$500.00. This was a Canada wide competition. When I was presented the prize in Vancouver for our Echo Hill W.I. they said "I can't find Echo Hill on the map . . . where is it?" Well, it isn't on the map. We have our W.I. hall and the old Vermillion Springs School which is situated around eleven miles south and east of Westlock.

In 1967 as a Centennial Project we restored the Vermillion Springs School to the way it was in 1907 when it was opened. It is classed as a museum. Anyone is welcome to see it and can get in touch with any of the Echo Hill W.I. members. We have had quite a few school children come by bus as far away as Edmonton to see it. You can phone Mrs. S. Yeoman about the museum at 349-2163.

For many years we served meals at the Westlock Fair. We have given showers for prospective brides; 25th anniversaries for our members, also some 50th anniversaries. In recent years we have been making layettes, knitting and sewing for the Red Cross. We have a roll call each meeting; some educational and others funny. An example would be paying a penny for every inch around your waist and this was usually just after Christmas. Another would be what did I grumble about today? and so on.

We have been writing to a sister W.I. in England for quite a few years and enjoy reading of their different activities which are quite a lot different to our program. One of our members visited this W.I. in 1975 in Surrey, England and was royally entertained. We make our own programs but over there they are made for them from head office, I think. There is no excuse for not knowing what our duties are for the month because we have them given to us in December ready for the next year. We have all fallen by the way side at times and forgotten we were supposed to bring some lunch, but the hostess always came to the rescue.

In 1976 we celebrated our 40th Anniversary and had it in the Busby Hall. We were very pleased to have a number of former members to celebrate with, also all the other W.I.'s in this district as guests.

In 1979 a very prominent Alberta Women's Institute member, Mrs. Martha Beilish was appointed to the Senate. She became an A.W.I. member as a very young woman living in Warspite and went on to hold many offices. She represented our organization on many government committees. We are very proud of her.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us at any of our branches. Mrs. Emily Charlton is our

Constituency Convenor and she can be reached at 349-3549. I am sure she would gladly tell you if there is a W.I. branch in your district. Come and join us!

### **The Women's Institute — It's early organization of Branches and Constituency within this area** by Emily Charlton

From the books of minutes and information passed on this is a summary of founding members and branches as well as of Constituency Conveners who joined the Women's Institute Organization to procure from this land those things needed to provide for the betterment of their Home and Country.

Busby W.I. was the first to organize in 1916. Among its founding members were Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Percy May, Mrs. W. B. Mills.

Independance W.I. was organized in 1919. Among its founding members were Mrs. Baille, Mrs. Bertha Mitchell, and Mrs. W. R. Foulton.

Westlock W.I. was organized in 1919. Some of the founding members were Mrs. N. W. Selfridge, Mrs. Emma J. Wheatley, Mrs. F. Griswold and Mrs. A. Bentley.

With the assistance of the Provincial Women's Institute executive office Mrs. Emma J. Wheatley was appointed the first Constituency Convener for this area, in 1918. It came to be known as The Mid Pembina Constituency, of District 11 of Alberta Women's Institute.

Pickardville W.I. was organized in 1923, with the founding members being, Mrs. J. Trethewan, Mrs. T. P. Gilmore, Mrs. Sutherland.

Manola W.I. was organized in 1920, and founding members were Mrs. T. Silvester, Mrs. Neuman Smith, Mrs. A. M. Harte.

Mid Pembina formed in 1927, with some of the founding members being, Miss Conroy, Mrs. R. Parks.

Barrhead W.I. formed in 1927. Among founding members were, Mrs. C. J. Sharper, Mrs. Bateman, Mrs. J.C. Craig.

Fawcett W.I. organized in 1942. Some founding members were Mrs. Bell, Mrs. C. D. Mandeson, Mrs. R. Fletcher.

Pibroch W.I. formed in 1938 with founding members being Mrs. Doris Daley, Mrs. Dolly Innis, Mrs. W. Stobie, Mrs. J. Rimmer.

Belvedere W.I. organized in 1948 (Barrhead Manola and Mid Pembina) disbanded, Belvedere repaced these branches with its founding members being Mrs. Elva Nicol, Mrs. Callihoo.

Echo Hill W.I. organized in 1936. Some founding members were Mrs. T. McMillan, Mrs. E. Weidrick, Mrs. A. Spencer, Mrs. W. Kibblewhite, Mrs. O. S. Jones.

Constituency Conveners who have served in the Mid Pembina Constituency since its Formation to the present time are the following:  
1916-1930



Women's Institute Flower Show, Westlock, 1930.





Westlock Alberta Women's Institute active since 1919. Taken on the 60th anniversary.

Mrs. E. J. Wheatley, Mrs. T. Silvester, Mrs. F. Griswold, Mrs. W. R. Foulton.

1930-1940

Mrs. Short, Mrs. L. Campbell, Mrs. F. Gilmore, Mrs. Morton, Mrs. H. Smith.

1940-1950

Mrs. F. Eakin, Mrs. D. A. McDonald, Mrs. Gross, Mrs. C. Bacon, Mrs. H. Doherty.

1950-1960

Mrs. L. Kunelious, Mrs. M. Sqair, Mrs. G. D. Spargo.

1960-1970

Mrs. L. McMillan, Mrs. E. Brown, Mrs. A. Cameron.

1970-1980

Mrs. S. Yoeman, Mrs. M. Hunt.

1980-1983

Mrs. E. Charlton

Regular Constituency Conferences are held annually within the Constituency. Women's Institute give recognition to the necessity to be more knowledgeable and understanding in lending support of the needs to our homes, our country and the world.

1916-1940

In the early years of settlement between 1916-1940, needs centered upon the immediate community. Institute members did much in rendering

help in providing school children with hot lunches, books for the libraries, sports equipment for baseball, basketball, and swings. Prizes were donated for boys and girls school fairs, agriculture shows, as well as for oratorical and poster contests, treats for school picnics and concerts. The Women's Institute promoted girls clubs and dress making.

Some of the fund raising projects were dances, concerts, plays, bazaars, refreshment booths, picture shows, lantern slides, bridge and whist drives and box socials.

The earlier W.I. lent a helping hand to the immigrant and early settlers, called and made them welcome in the community, provided food and clothing hampers. The groups formed bees for work sharing and quilting, provided burned out victims with necessary essentials and various other good neighborly acts.

Women's Institute is a well structured organization which concentrates on the home and country's needs. The committee topics encourage members to be more knowledgeable and understanding of their needs. The standing committee topics dealt with Agriculture, Canadian Industries, Canadianism and Legislation, Immigration and The League of Nations, Home Economics, Social Welfare, Public Health, Schools and Education.

The W.I. helped promote Pre Natal Care, Labor Saving for Women, The Relief Act, Establishment of health clinics, Wills and the law, Settlement schemes of immigrant agencies. They supported and helped provide funds for meeting places and community halls, and purchase of equipment. As well the groups helped to establish cemeteries and even layettes and help for the new born babies. Their staunch hearts helped strengthen the bonds of community during the times of struggle, the depression and the war years.

1940-1983

As the years of the depression slowly ebbed away, from the far off horizons the threats of war could be heard.

Gradual improvements in the economy were encouraging. With more farmers owning motor vehicles the dirt roads were difficult especially after the rains. Many, many women will never forget traveling to many of the constituency conferences over heavy muddy roads. A goodly number of farmers in the early forties banned to-gether and graveled portions of their roads.

As the war clouds loomed, it seemed that Laws of war were made to be broken. War broke out in 1939, and its spread engulfed most of the world.

Our countries needs were soon responded to. Women's Institute members lent their support in helping raise funds for the Merchant Navy. Members

were encouraged to purchase Canada War Bonds. There was an appeal for nursing recruits. Mrs. Morton of the area was appointed Dominion Convener of War Services. Everyone was encouraged to write and send parcels to the boys who had gone to war. Jam and Mothers parcels as well as Bundles for Britain were sent on a regular basis. Jams were a special commodity as sugar was rationed during the war. So often, as these women worked, they sang "There will always be an England," "Land of hope and glory," "The White Cliffs of Dover." They patiently waited for the day when peace would come again.

The war ended in 1945. Some of the boys came home with new brides. With government help to give them a rightful place back home in their country, these men were able to gain job training and further education.

The post war years brought dramatic changes. Bigger machines and brush cutters replaced the hand clearing. Acres of land were soon cleared and broken and placed into production. Many roads soon became highways. All too soon came a change of pace and life style which continued to the 1980's. The high expectations and the quickening pace brought stress and changes, such as the economy, pollution, threats to our environment and the impact on people trying to adjust to these changes. Technology, the space age, computers and the micro-chip will further challenge us.

How does the world adjust to so great a change? It has the semblance to a mighty river in flood. With due time the water finds its level.

With steadfast hope, time will pass and eventually society will venture through with adjustments. Women's Institute, with the ever expanding needs for humanity will be there to respond to the coming tomorrows.

## Eastburg Women of Unifarm

On August 6, 1947 a group of Eastburg ladies met at the home of Mrs. Fremlin Ralph to organize an UFWA local. Sixteen women joined the organization in which Mrs. F. Ralph became president and Mrs. Jean (Elmer) Day became secretary.

In October, 1949 Eastburg UFWA was reconstituted as FWUA Local 304 following amalgamation of the men's and women's groups in Alberta.

In those times, funds were raised at bazaars, chicken suppers and bake sales.

Mrs. C. James and Mrs. T. James have both served on the District Three executive.

For many years the club served meals at the second day of the Westlock Fair. The annual Farmer's Day picnic is always enjoyed by members and their families. At various times, the group has toured

points of interest in the city by bus. An annual Christmas party has been held at Mrs. C. James' home for a number of years.

The group actively supports the Provincial Executive by discussions and votes at the monthly meetings. Charitable donations are made to causes of interest to the group. A child in the Third World (Bolivia) receives annual support.

At the present (1983), Mrs. Dorothy (Tom) James is president and Mrs. Jean (Don) Reidford is secretary.

## Westlock Elks' Lodge #330

Imbued with the ideals of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity, 71 community minded citizens of Westlock, Alberta, Canada, formed a fraternal-service organization of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada. The Executive on Monday, March 27, 1950, under the leadership of a young, energetic and capable Exalted Ruler, Richard F. Staples, consisted of the following:

Exalted Ruler	Richard F. Staples
Leading Knight	R. A. Sutherland
Loyal Knight	"Barney" Hughes
Lecturing Knight	Albert Shank
Secretary	C. A. Rouston
Treasurer	Rudy Renaud
Inner Guard	J. E. Brooks
Tyler	Cecil Hide
Esquire	V. H. Wellman
Chaplain	B. Bearstro
Organist	G. P. Brimacombe
Trustees:	S. A. Lindahl
	A. G. Brooks

Of the first "team" of members, still serving our community, or other communities, we find the following:

Jacob Brost	Clyde Gault
Raymond Reanud	Leo Kunelius
Paul Renaud	Miller Watt
Fred Zacek	Joe Roch
Francis Flintoff	W. B. Spragge
Gerry Feyeley	J. P. Wodelet, Jr.
Norman Miller	J. S. Jarvis
Albert Fortin	Albert Shank

Through the years the organization prospered, morally and financially, under the capable leadership of many exalted rulers. It has been estimated that since the resurrection of the Lodge in 1950 (The first Lodge No. 177 was formed on November 28, 1930) the Elks have contributed some \$200,000 to the welfare of Westlock — without whose help the community would have been that much poorer.

The reins of the organization, during the many years, were in the hands of the following Exalted Rulers:

1950	R. F. Staples	1953	Norman Miller
1951	M. E. Sumner	1954	Leo Kunelius
1952	Norman Miller	1955	Leo Kunelius



1956	Carl Poloway	1971	Charlie Herndon
1957	Albert Shank	1972	Roy Ritter
1958	Carl Muller	1973	"Bud" Jordan
1959	Michael Ukrainetz	1974	Frank Williams
1960	Fred Zacek	1975	Andy Milne
1961	Paul Renaud	1976	Andy Milne
1962	Paul Renaud	1977	Brian Gray
1963	Michael Ukrainetz	1978	Albert Shank
1964	Michael Ukrainetz	1979	Norman Kitz
1965	E. L. Clapperton	1980	Ben Cooper
1966	Brian Gray	1981	Ben Cooper
1967	Gerry McGlone	1982	Bryne Cooper
1968	Matt Fediuk	1983	Bene Bilyk
1969	Don Hobart	1984	Andy Milne
1970	Al Rousseau		

The members of the Executive for 1983-84 consist of the following:

Past Exalted Ruler	Gene Bilyk
Exalted Ruler	Andy Milne
Leading Knight	Jim Goshko
Loyal Knight	Charles Jones
Lecturing Knight	Roy Barnard
Esquire	Raymond Renaud
Inner Guard	Gordon Gower
Tyler	William Hasiuk
Chaplain	Fred Rode
Secretary	Norman Kitz
Treasurer	Clyde McKenzie
Historian	Michael Ukrainetz
Publicity Director	Clyde McKenzie
Trustees	Don Hobart
	Ben Cooper
	Gene Bilyk

Although primarily a fraternal organization, the Westlock Elks' Lodge, from its inception, had as its motto "Servus Alces" — a service to a fellow man. Earlier records are lost, but the monumental contribution of the Elks bear witness to their indefatigable efforts. The Elks were instrumental in the erection and maintenance of the original bleachers at the Mountie Park; the Elks initiated Christmas parties for children; the Elks, with the help of Kinsmen and other organizations, spearheaded and completed the Westlock Memorial Hall in the amount of \$10,000.

The following abstract from the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Westlock News, on August 7, 1963, amply demonstrates what is meant by a concern for their fellow man.

Elks' Lodge in Westlock

"A lodge of the B. P. O. Elks of Canada was organized in 1930 but after some years of operation became inactive. The Lodge was reorganized in 1950 and has operated continuously since that date.

In 13 years of operation, the Elks have contributed over \$20,000 to community service. The major project was the finishing of the hall. The annual Christmas turkey bingo has been successful in raising large sums of money for the library. A grandstand was built by the Elks at the fairgrounds. The Elks shared the costs of the skating rink with the Kinsmen. Contributions have been made W.D.R.A., the hockey club and the baseball club.

The Westlock Elks made a major pledge of \$2,000 to the Recreation Centre. The Lodge will by September have fulfilled this pledge. A steer, donated by Brother Lindahl, will be raffled at the fair, and a successful raffle will enable the Elks to honour their commitment.

Several plays directed by Brother Lorne Clapperton have been

successful and enjoyable. The district can look forward to another this fall."

A unique project of the Elks in 1966 was the sponsorship of 24 students from Westlock and District, the Centennial Travellers, on their ten-day tour of Winnipeg, The Pas, Flin Flon. Brother Unkrainetz and his wife Nancy, a member of the Royal Purple and a registered nurse, chaperoned the students on their journey. On their return, a week or two later, the Westlock Elks again hosted, with the help of the Town and other organizations, a group of young people from Quebec. These young people and their chaperons came here, suspicious of our English Western Canada, went home crying because of their disbelief of our hospitality. It was not small undertaking for brother Elks and their wives to spend three days at Jasper showing the Quebecers our majestic rockies.

As years progressed, the maturity of the organization progressed too. The children's Christmas party was replaced by yearly donations — proceeds from Christmas bingos every year — to the Westlock Community Library. To-date the Elks donated approximately \$10,000 to the Library. Matched, cent for cent, by the Provincial Government, the library was not only able to survive, but the assistance given the library helped it, according to the reports of the Libraries' Branch of Provincial Government, to become one of the leading libraries in the Province.

It became a yearly undertaking for the Elks to help a destitute young boy or girl through their Purple Cross, or directly; it became a yearly venture to sponsor or coach, or both, minor hockey and minor baseball. Many a student had been given assistance, almost every year, in the payment of fees, or in direct donation, in attending the Provincial Leadership Training School or the United Nations Seminar. No appeals by the young people have ever been turned down by the Elks.

December 7, saw the formation of the Order of the Royal Purple — a sister organization of the Elks. The Elks may be justifiably proud of the efforts of the ladies of the Royal Purple whose substantial donations to various projects in the community speak for themselves.

For a number of years the Elks made their yearly canvas for the Red Cross.

Almost every year their quotas have been over-subscribed. In 1973, to make a blitz for the Red Cross more successful, the Ladies of the Royal Purple pitched in to assist brother Elks in their worthy undertaking. One must give credit for the meticulous organization of these drives to Brothers John Bragaglia and Al Rousseau. Without their efforts the Red Cross

Society would not have received substantial contributions.

For a number of years the Lodge won the trophies for ritualistic competition best attendance at meetings in their district, and Community Service Trophy.

There are too many members to be singled out for their contribution to the Lodge. Each one deserves a plaudit of "well done a true and faithful servant." However, one must single out the contribution of the late Brother S. A. Lindahl, who donated the land for the swimming pool, and whose firm, Lindahl Supermarket, through their yearly donations of a steer, made the realization of the swimming pool and the Lindahl Park possible.

Since the organization of the Lodge, and many years thereafter, Brother Charles Roulston had been its faithful servant and earned the honour of wearing the Royal Purple and the life membership of the Lodge. Charlie worked without any complaints and donated his time and money to the cause he believed in.

One should pay tribute to the Elks who have gone to the realms beyond. They were all good Elks concerned with the improvement of conditions for young people of their Community. We bow our heads as we mention the names of Ed Evans, J. P. Renaud, Rudy Renaud, George Diefenbaugh, Roy Brown, Jack Sheffsky, John Gray, Robert Brooks, Norman Crone, Earl Elliott, and S. A. Lindahl.

One should not overlook the Purple Cross, the aim of which is deaf detection and assistance to any individual young child who needs it. To date, with the help of the Ladies of the Royal Purple some \$6,000 has been raised for this cause.

A lasting monument to the Town of Westlock has been realized recently though the effort of the Elks in the erection of the grandstand at the Mountie Park at the cost of some \$100,000, With the fine grandstand the fine sports grounds the community can enjoy the facilities for the years to come.

## History of the Westlock Farm Womens Organization

Westlock U F W A local was one of the first locals to be organized in the Province of Alberta. Mrs. Elizabeth Greenfield, Mrs. Isabella Edgson and Mrs. J. W. Shutt were the members of the first executive. The membership included a large area, e.g. from Clyde west to Hazel Bluff and an equal distance north and south.

In the early years women came from ten to thirteen miles to attend the meetings so consequently most of them were dinner meetings. Most of the ladies travelled by horse-drawn wagons or sleighs.



F.W.U.A. Women. L to R: Mrs. Zolmer, Mrs. B. Lyons, Mrs. Hope, Mrs. Glen, Mrs. Jack Campbell (with white blouse), Jenny Sterling, Mrs. Bentler in front of Mrs. Sherwin, Louise Van Dresar, Mrs. W. Platt and Mrs. Elliott.

In 1934 some of the Westlock members decided to organize their own local at Hazel Bluff to avoid such long trips. The first Mrs. Archie Brown and Mrs. H. Hide decided to remain with the original local and did so until their passing.

While the organization was still called the U F W A, Mrs. Dieffenbaugh, Mrs. Mabel Smith and Mrs. Bella Lyons served as directors. Mrs. Hilda Beach and Mrs. Daisy Platt were the organizers of the Junior U F A here in Westlock.

In the early 1940's the parent organization changed its name from United Farmers of Alberta to Farm Union of Alberta and so the women's branch became F W U A . These women's locals have been active in both provincial and local affairs. They've made donations to the Red Cross, Canadian Cancer Society, Canadian Institute for the Blind, A C W W , Mental Health, Gold Eye Camp, Retarded Children



Farm Women's meeting at Mrs. Jack Edgson's. L to R: Jenny Sterling, Mrs. Dieffenbaugh, Mrs. Selfridge, Mrs. McEachern, Mrs. Henry Hide, Mrs. Mabel Smith, Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Jack Alton and Mrs. Jack Edgson. Kneeling: Lucille Hide, Mrs. Harvey Patterson and Mrs. Wagner.



(Winnifred Stewart School) and remembered the sick.

Some of our members who have served on the provincial board since the name change are; Mrs. Bella Lyons, Mrs. Mabel Smith, Mrs. Hilda Beach, Rita Cannard and Dorinne Scott of Westlock local and Simone Paquette of Eastburg and Donna Fay Brown of Pibroch local.

In 1967 we compiled a history of Westlock, entered in a province-wide competition of local histories. It was called "The Westlock Story" and consisted of two volumes which are recorded page by page in the Glenbow Museum, Calgary Archives. Since then a third volume has been added and all may be viewed in the Westlock Library.

The regional trophy recognizing the local with the highest achievement for the year, has been won frequently by the Westlock local at the Spring Conference.

The Westlock Agricultural Fair is supported by our competition in group baking and handicraft exhibits. We also offer two special prizes in handicraft by senior citizens.

We have catered for banquets to raise funds and are proud to say we were able to buy an IPPB machine for our local hospital. We also contributed to a home kidney machine that was needed locally.

Since 1971, in November, our name has been Women of Unifarm but I am sure most people think of us as the "Farm Women."



Farm Women. Standing: Helen Tymko, Martha O'Brien, Jenny Sterling, Elsie Johnson, Eva Lefebvre. Seated: Ella Hodgins, Anne Sprengle, Irene Soltez, Rita Cannard, Dorine Scott, Corrie Arts, Maisie Platt.

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy", so over the years we've had our annual day trip to the city. This has always been a fun thing as we toured factories and gardens, the parliament buildings and museums, did some shopping and, of course, enjoyed our meals in swanky places with no dishes to wash afterwards.

One year, this same group took all members by bus to Vermillion School of Agriculture to Farm Women Week, for four days, contributing our share towards entertaining and displaying handicrafts, having a holiday and learning at the same time.

A way back in 1927 we, as a group, chartered a railway coach and made a three week trip to Vancouver and Victoria in the month of April before spring work started. We visited factories, gardens, conservatories, parks and members of our local who had moved to Victoria. This was a first real holiday for most of us. We took our own food, rented a large home called Alberta House and shared our chores and expenses.

Some years we have had family suppers with a program following, that all enjoyed. We have thoroughly enjoyed preparing and delivering our programs with the Pembina Lodge and the Auxiliary Hospital each year. We also have sent numerous young people to Gold Eye Lake Camp over the years.

This history covers well over fifty years of friendships made and many shared experiences, and it is hoped the Westlock local will be alive and well when the next history book is written to bring Westlock History up to date.

#### 4-H In The Westlock Area

The 4-H movement in the Westlock district began in the year 1947 under the direction of the District Agriculturist, James Good. There was a beef club in Westlock and Pibroch at that time. The beef clubs included both boys and girls.

In all these clubs the main purpose was to give the farm youth an opportunity to take an active part in an activity where they learned by doing.

All clubs were under the guidance of either the Home Economist or the District Agriculturist. Leaders for each group were chosen from the community; people who gave very much of their time and themselves to assist in the conducting of meetings, some of them serving as leaders for as long as twelve to fourteen years. All members were taught good citizenship, fellowship and love of agriculture.

Many more groups were formed over the years. There are beef clubs, dairy, garden, clothing and equestrian now all over the district. The beef club have their annual achievement day and sale of beef animals, held in the Westlock Arena. It is always one



50th Anniversary Cake for the Alberta 4-H Clubs held in the Edmonton Gardens in Centennial Year, 1967. It stood 9 ft. high, took 15 dozen eggs and 70 lbs of icing sugar. Made by Jenny Sterling of Westlock.

of the highlights of the year in the area and a very fine display of beef animals is assured each year, showing wonderful improvement over the years, due to the careful selection of stock.

They also have exchanges with eastern Canada and the U.S.A. Many young people from this area have benefitted from, and enjoyed, these trips.

Public speaking is also part of their training. Junior boys and girls 7 to 12 years old may compete in one group and seniors in another. Each club sends their winners to a final "Speak-Off" where the winners of all clubs compete for the final trophies.

This was an excellent training; many young people can now speak publicly without any effort, due to their 4-H training.

4-H has certainly enriched the lives of many young people and made them better, and more useful, citizens.

### **The History of the Westlock Golden Age Club**

The Westlock and District Golden Age Club was formed in January 1969. The first President was Mr.



Opening of the Pioneer Room at the Drop-in-Centre. Ron Williams presenting a picture to Stan Coates for the Centre.

R. D. Jorgenson. The meeting was held in the Westlock United Church. Having no centre of their own the new club was dependent on local organizations for a place to meet.

Mr. Macaulay, the co-ordinator, said he was almost certain the Club would receive the grant applied for from "New Horizons."

In January 1973 a meeting was held to discuss a suitable place to hold meetings.

On April 4th, 1973, the sum of \$7,050.00 was received from "New Horizons" as a grant to further the expectations of the Club. The Anglican Parish Hall was rented for \$100.00 a month, operating on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The fee for membership was set at one dollar a year. The official opening came on August 24th, 1973.

One of the ways the Club had for making money was the collection of used newspapers, which were baled by the male members and stored until enough had been collected to fill a transport van, which was shipped to Edmonton. In October of 1974, Mrs. Sjostrom donated the use of her garage for a paper depot.

Then, in August of 1975, a meeting was held to discuss the acquisition of a permanent place to open a Drop-in-Centre. The purchase of two lots on the corner of 105th Street and 103rd Avenue was discussed. The price was \$30,000.00. There was a





Handicraft at the Westlock Drop-in-Centre. Mrs. Bunker (right) and Georgette Lefebvre at back.

building on the property, about 40 x 50 feet, which had been occupied by the C & A Body Shop.

An appeal for funds was launched and letters were sent to members asking for donations. Many personal contacts were made also, resulting in many private donations being received. Soon, \$4,850.00 was promised. A joint meeting with the owner, Mr. Brant, was held. Mr. Brant requested a down payment of \$10,000.00. An agreement was reached with the Town and the Municipal District whereby each Council and the Club would put up Ten Thousand Dollars, to facilitate the purchase. There were now 146 members, and they decided to rent the Parish Hall for two more months, while they renovated the building. All the inside partitions were removed, the ladies helped with the extensive cleaning that had to be done, and plans were drawn up for the design of the interior. Members of the Rotary Club spent many hours putting in a ceiling and the members themselves worked hard to get the building in shape for occupation. On September 24, 1976, the first business meeting took place in the new Centre. Up to that date, the paper Depot project had cleared \$900.00, and a good thank you had gone to the men who had so faithfully manned the depot.

On April 30th, 1977, the official opening of the Drop-in-Centre took place. 140 members and their friends, dignitaries and others gathered to witness the fulfilling of a vision, a dream come true! The body shop had been transformed into a comfortable, pleasant Centre for all to enjoy.

In the fall of 1978 it became apparent that the

building was becoming too small for the increasing membership. One year later, in 1979, plans were formulated for an addition to the building. By the end of 1980 the second section, another 40 x 50 feet area, was finished, this time by a building contractor, plus some inside work by members. This area, called the "Pioneer Room" was officially opened on April 3rd, 1981, when the Seniors received many congratulations for the fine progress they had made.

At the present time (January 1982) the Golden Age Club Drop-in-Centre is in full swing. The building now has room for billiards, discing (two lanes), and carpet bowling (two lanes), as well as space for social events, cards, dancing and crafts. The membership rose to 300 members in 1981, and is now at about 250 paid-up members. Quite a number of members are now over 80 years old, and they receive an honorary membership for the remainder of their lives.

## History of Immaculata Hospital Ladies Auxiliary renamed Westlock Hospitals Volunteers

submitted by Loretta R. Renaud

In June 1927 the Sisters of Charity of Halifax opened a hospital in Westlock. Two years later on May 2, 1929, Sister Elizabeth Seaton chaired the organizational meeting of the Immaculata Hospital Ladies Auxiliary. Mrs. A. M. Crawford became the first President. Since 1929 many fine, dedicated women have devoted much time and energy to improve hospital care. As a result of their work, a strong organization developed. From the outset the purpose of the Ladies Auxiliary has been to assist the hospitals in every way possible through service and fund



Hospital Volunteers — Westlock, donating a portable hair dryer to the Auxiliary Hospital. L to R, (back): Lizzie Gamble, Susan Wilson, Dorothy Moser, Jean Todd, Phoebe Lyons, Anna Nicholson, Betty Simpson. Front: Administrator of Auxiliary Hospital Shirley Morie, Dell Hewson, Martha Jones.

raising in a manner satisfactory to the governing body.

Over the years many projects have been developed. At first, donations of furnishings and of garden and farm produce helped to carry the organization through the Depression years. The first tag day was held in 1929 and one hundred dollars was realized. Then projects such as bazaars, raffles, bake sales and teas were instituted. For many years the annual St. Patrick's Day Gala Ball was the highlight of the year. The tag day was re-instated in 1968 and then from 1970 to the present, the "In Memoriam" donations for hospital equipment have been a vital contribution. These events have all provided a steady stream of financial help for the hospital.

Every year, the organization has purchased equipment that could not be afforded through regular hospital financing. For example, one of the first large purchases was an operating room table obtained in March, 1948, for \$1,027.85. More recently, in 1969, laboratory equipment and a Heart Monitor for intensive care purposes were added at a cost of \$6,083.00. These and many other items have helped to raise the level of patient care.

Another important facet of the Hospital Auxiliary has always been the personal volunteer work of the members. Many ladies have always made items for everyday use, such as slippers, lap pads and baby layettes. The ladies have also visited the patients, have shown films to entertain them, and have provided flowers and gifts on special occasions. Since 1960, a trolley cart confectionary and books service has been provided while 1974 marked the start of the annual door-to-door Cancer Drive.

As time passed, more hospitals were built — namely the Auxiliary Hospital in 1964 and the Nursing Home in 1970. To convey accurately that all three hospitals would now be served, the name of the Immaculata Hospital Ladies Auxiliary became the Westlock Hospitals Volunteers in 1977.

As this history is being compiled in 1982, there is an active organization having a membership of approximately forty-two volunteers with Mrs. Dell Hewson in her fourth year as president. At this time it is also appropriate to mention that this history has been made possible because Marie Lindahl and Barb Johnson researched the old files in order to make a record book that is now being kept up in order to document the work of the Westlock Hospitals Volunteers.

## **The Kinettes Club of Westlock**

**by Patricia Bichel**

The Kinettes Club of Westlock was formed in May, 1953, and disbanded in the spring of 1974, due to the dissolution of the Kinsmen Club of Westlock.

The Kinettes helped equip the Kinsmen Tot Lot, donated to the Legion Polio Fund, the Memorial Hall Kitchen Committee, the Recreation Association and the Library. Toys were bought for children leaving the hospital and layettes etc. were given to the hospital. An air purifier was given to the Immaculata Hospital in 1963, and the Kinettes operated the hospital confectionery cart up to 1969. They canvassed door-to-door for the Cancer Society each April, and mended books at the library each month.

Annual donations were given to the Brownies and Guides, Cubs and Scouts, and to the Westlock Library, including the donation of the library tables. Other donations were to the Memorial Hall piano, swimming pool, National Kinsmen Institute on Mental Retardation, Westlock Figure Skating Club, Scout Hall, "Sing out Edmonton", Preventive Welfare for a foster child to go to camp, fire fund for an area family, High School Band, T.B. Clinic, Golden Age Club, "Thunderettes" basketball team and the Kampala Polio Fund.

The Kinettes donated \$1,000 to the Kinsmen in 1969 for the swimming pool fund. In 1970-1971, they presented Regional Recreation with two large play shelters costing \$1,000, and in 1972 they gave \$1,000 to the Kinsmen Park project.

In 1967, the Club began awarding a \$100 scholarship to a student wishing to further his or her education.

The Kinettes kept busy by painting the old outdoor skating rink and later the bleachers in the arena, catering, putting on fashion shows, a strawberry tea and antique show, driving Pembina Lodge residents through the country in the summer, as well as assisting the Kinsmen Club with their numerous events. They sponsored the Ice Carnival Queen Contest, made backdrops for the annual Kinsmen Ice Carnival, and put on the Sno-Ball Dance.

Funds were raised by selling Easter Baskets, candy apples on Wacky Saturday, raffle tickets, Christmas trees, and through the annual Ski and Skate Swap.

Past Presidents were: Dot Anderson, Signa Thirsk, Olga Hrushka, Eileen Deacon, Lorraine Prazak, Eleanor Edgar, Barb Johnson, Helen Baxandall, Lois Gray, Marie Macaulay, Marg Pavelich, Joyce Greenfield, Jackie Bott, Betty Wilkins, Bernie Bryk, Ethel Feheley, Joanne Murphy, Saranell Siemens, Iris Nelson, Dorothy Gehring, Shirley Nedelko, Pat Bichel and Helen Huber.

## **Kinsmen Club of Westlock**

On January 19th, 1953, the Kinsmen Club of Westlock came into being. The first Kinsmen project was a tot lot situated behind the present Bank of Montreal. Funds for this were raised by selling lunch



at ball games, having bingos at the drive-in and having peanut days. By the second year, a second tot lot was under way. In 1955 the Kinsmen raised \$1900.00 for the covered arena fund with proceeds from a car bingo. In 1957 the Kinsmen poured concrete footings for the skating rink.

In 1963 the Kinsmen handed over the keys of the Scout Hall to the Scouts, Cubs and Brownies. At this time the Westlock Figure Skating Club was having financial difficulties and asked the Kinsmen for assistance. This was given until 1971 when the Figure Skating Club was able to carry on alone.

Kinsmen sponsored the Kinsmen Road-eo (driving competition) and Pedal Pusher to promote safe bicycling. Through 500 Silver Dollar Raffles, pools, bingos, Kinstake tickets, and many other projects, the Kinsmen gave towards the Memorial Hall piano, financial aid to the High School Band when it went to Expo and \$3400.00 to the swimming pool fund. The Kinsmen also donated \$5000.00 to the arena and installed the arena's public address system. With the Elks, they helped paint bleachers.

In 1969 they sponsored two local recipients of the Alberta Silver Blade Award to Drayton Valley Summer Skating School with financial assistance. Annually, they sponsored a child in Canadian Save the Children campaign as well as helping with community beautification projects. They helped build the outdoor skating rink in Eastglen and built a lovely cabin at Long Island Lake. Proceeds from the sale of this were used for community projects.



Westlock Kinsmen Club Silver Dollar Raffle promotion in the Fair Day Parade during the 1960's.

The Kinsmen were responsible for bringing to Westlock, Mukluk Days, Tob-O-Kin skidoo races, the Inkspots, the Skate-a-thon and Nuts in May. They made many donations to Minor Baseball, Cubs and Scouts, Minor Hockey and the Figure Skating Club.

In the spring of 1973 the Kinsmen began work on Kinsmen Park beside the water tower in Eastglen. They put close to \$7000.00 into work on this park for excavating, hauling black dirt, time and labour and also for equipment donated. When the Westlock Kinsmen Club disbanded, a cheque for \$1650.00 was presented to the Town of Westlock by President Dennis Bichel to be used in completion of the park. Residents of Westlock now recognize former Kinsmen Park as Eastglen Heritage Park.

So much was given to the Westlock area by the Westlock Kinsmen Club over the twenty-one years that it operated. The Westlock Kinsmen won the Boake Club Efficiency Trophy seven times and twice was awarded the National Expansion Award. District Deputy Governors elected from Westlock were Ed Prazak, Ron Johnson and Sam Murphy. Even though the Kinsmen Club of Westlock disbanded, the true spirit of Kinsmanship remained with each member.

Over the years the Kinsmen Presidents have been: Don Thirsk, John Hrushka, Ed Prazak, Frazer Currie, Dwaine MacAulay, Bill Slipp, Martin Pavelich, Bob Edgar, Jim Simpson, Lorne Gray, Stan Bott, Ron Johnson, Ken Roy, Michael Holyk, Gerald Feheley, Brian MacAulay, Hugh Sangster, Ron Nelson, Arnold Siemens and Dennis Bichel.

## **Knights of Columbus Westlock Council No. 2948**

On December 16, 1954, the first meeting of the Westlock Council of the Knights of Columbus took place with T. S. Casey as Grand Knight. Officers were installed by State Deputy W. J. Connelly of Edmonton.

T. S. Casey was Grand Knight in 1955, 1956, 1957 and 1958. John Murphy was Grand Knight in 1958 and 1959. Raymond Renaud held that position in 1960, followed by Albert Gower in 1960, 1961 and 1962. Al Rousseau was also Grand Knight for a time but there is no record of the year.

In 1962 John MacDonald was elected Grand Knight after which no records were kept until December 4, 1978 when Louis Sobolewski was elected Grand Knight of the revived council.

During the 1960's and until 1978, John MacDonald was Grand Knight and John Murphy was Financial Secretary and kept the council alive although no meetings were held during that period.

Both Brothers Murphy and MacDonald attended Provincial conventions during this time and urged



Knights of Columbus Camp at Lake Wakamao, 1983.

the Provincial Executive to revive the Westlock Council. Finally this was done. Representatives from the Provincial Executive contacted parish priest Father Morrisette and the council was revived on December 4, 1978.

In the 1950's the project of the council was the purchase of land and the construction of buildings at the summer camp at Wakamao Lake.

Money was raised through giant bingos at which the council worked very hard. At the time, the council numbered 135 members.

The following is taken from the minutes of October 21, 1956: "Breakdown of expenses for the summer camp at Wakamao Lake. Lumber and building supplies, \$2,731.64; Kitchen equipment \$467.43; Bunks and mattresses \$507.85; Land purchased, \$200.00; Beach expenses \$72.58; Insurance \$52.50; Total \$4,032.00."

A grand opening was held at the camp on June 22, 1956.

In the years between 1962 and 1964 the Knights of Columbus worked closely with parish priest Monsignor Rooney on the spiritual and material needs of the parish. Council was also active in cadets and recreation such as curling, hockey and broomball.



Knights of Columbus Camp showing Lake Wakamao, 1983.

In the early 1960's, the Knights of Columbus, Westlock Council spearheaded the obtaining of St. Mary Catholic School in close co-operation with Monsignor Rooney and Father Morrisette. After the school opened on September 1, 1964, the Westlock Council went into a period of inactivity, but reactivated on December 4, 1978 and Louis Sobolewski was elected Grand Knight.

The main focus of the Westlock Council became the refurbishing of our Camp at Lake Wakamao. This ambitious project was undertaken with great enthusiasm. After nearly a year and a half of planning and raising money through Bingos and Government Grants, we were able to start the reconstruction. On June 18, 1980, the council made motions to start the following work:

1. Apply for power.
2. Install a septic tank.
3. Arrange for someone to live at the camp.
4. Establish a trailer site.
5. Install propane.
6. Drill a well.
7. Survey what can be done with the old buildings.

This list was to prove to be only the beginning, and after two years of labor and the spending of \$65,000.00 the work was just about complete.

On July 24, 1982, the camp was officially reopened at a beautiful ceremony with Bishop Roy and all the priests of the area concelebrating Mass. Local M.L.A. Frank Appleby; Deputy Reeve, John DeChamplain of the M.D. of Westlock; Deputy Mayor, Frank Gurak and the Mayor of Clyde, Mike Stasiuk were also present. A day of festivity and fun followed, with everyone having a good time. This year (1983) the Knights will be establishing a swimming pool at the camp.

Other activities that the Knights are participating in are; the Basketball Free Throw competition for Junior and Senior High School students, the Knights of Columbus Provincial Hockey Tournament and the establishment of summer camps for young people. Finally, the province-wide Charities Appeal Campaign to assist all handicapped and disabled people in Alberta is being supported by this organization.

The Westlock Knights of Columbus has been proud to serve the Westlock area in the past and looks forward to a brighter and more dynamic future.

## The History of the Masonic Lodge in Westlock

by Jack Hobart

The Westlock Masonic Lodge was officially started April 2, 1920.

Four early pioneers sat around the stove at John



Dezall's Hardware Store in November 1915 and discussed the starting of a Masonic Lodge in Westlock. The four pioneers were, A. R. Brown, John Dezall, George McTavish and Farmer Steele. They then contacted other Masons in the area, all of them were interested but because World War I was on, many Masons were overseas in the army and it was decided to wait until the war was over and the men returned.

After the war, another effort was made to establish a Masonic Lodge in Westlock and on April 2, 1920 Westlock Lodge was officially started with nine charter members, H. E. Manning, Wm. Gilfillan, A. R. Brown, George McTavish, John Dezall, George Birks, Jack Trethewan, Farmer Steele and T. A. Brown.

The Lodge first met in a room above the old theatre and their wives served a lovely hot supper in the theatre after the meeting and thus was the beginning of the Westlock Masonic Lodge.

The first candidates were A. McGregor, D. C. Smith and G. H. Travers.

Later Lodge meetings were held upstairs above the McTavish store. In 1930 electricity was installed in the Lodge Room, a little more civilization had arrived in Westlock.

During World War 2, Masons from Earl Haig Lodge, Barrhead affiliated with our Lodge in 1944 and remained with us until 1953 when they then again formed their own Lodge.

In 1947 our Lodge moved to its third home, the

basement of the United Church. On August 10th 1948 our new quarters were completed and occupied in the new Memorial Hall where we have been for the last 35 years.

Our membership remains in excess of 100 and has enjoyed harmony and brotherly love for over 63 years.

### **Old Timers' Cabin at the Fair Grounds by Jennie Sterling and Lizzie Gamble**

Thinking back over the years, the memories of "The Old Timers' Cabin" are a little vague, but piecing things together, we believe it was an old booth constructed on the fairgrounds perhaps by Mr. A. M. Nielson or Mr. George Dieffenbaugh for some of the sports days. It was just a square structure, open on four sides, with a cottage roof. Mr. and Mrs. Dios Smith had the idea it could be closed in and made a visiting and resting spot for visitors to the fair. The Old Timers undertook to renovate this old framework in approximately 1951 when a new shingled roof was added. At this time it was near the baseball diamond, and did not fit in with the permanent planning of the grounds, so it was moved to its present location at the corner of the arena, with the thought in mind it would be convenient for the older folk to congregate and visit the exhibits in the building. It was attractively sided with imitation log and the roof painted green. A few years later they added a concrete walk that surrounded the building, with a guard rail and an attrac-



Westlock Old Timers; some are named below. Front row, L to R: Mrs. Adair, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Sherwin, Mrs. Brabazon, Mrs. E. Elliot, Olive McKibben, May MacDougall, Grace Bentley, Maizie Reid. Back row: Bill McKibben, Phoebe Lyons, Mr. Bill Elliott, Mary Adair, Alma Parton, Alf Parton, Mrs. Kathleen Watt, Miller Watt, Arthur Bentley.



Old Timers' Banquet.

tive rustic sign. Today it is quite attractive inside due to the efforts of The Old Timers' Association.

Over the years it has been a gathering place for the young and old, the register sometimes showing a visiting list of three hundred or more during the two days of the fair. Everyone enjoys a cup of tea or coffee from china cups and saucers, and a cookie or two, supplied all these more than twenty-five years by the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Lindahl. There are many interesting photographs and albums on display. One wall is decorated with historical quilts, and many are the happy exchanges of greetings by old friends and neighbors in this little cabin during fair days, especially when it rains.

### Order of the Royal Purple

The Order of the Royal Purple Auxiliary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of Canada, was founded in Vancouver, B.C. in July, 1929. The aims and purposes of the Lodge are: (a) to inculcate the principles of justice, charity, sisterly love and fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of woman towards a pure and noble citizenship, to cultivate good citizenship. (b) To assist, promote and second the aims and purposes of the Elks in their benevolent, charitable and social work.

The national objective of the Order of the Royal Purple is the Elks Purple Cross Deaf Detection and Development Program. The purpose of the program has been to promote the earliest possible identification and best possible care for the hearing impaired children of Canada. A Canada wide program of public information has been implemented with "May is



Order of the Royal Purple.

Hearing and Speech Month" throughout Canada. Five million dollars has been given by Elks and Ladies of the Order of the Royal Purple throughout Canada to bring about the early detection of hearing loss in children since 1968.

The Westlock Lodge of the Ladies of the Order of the Royal Purple was chartered on November 30, 1960 with twenty-six members. Membership has remained fairly constant and today members number twenty-two. The lodge is pleased to have Mrs. Ann Clarahan and Mrs. Elsa Muller in their midst, who are charter members.

During the past years the Lodge has accomplished many projects for the benefit of the community. Over the years the Westlock Lodge has assisted the Elks financially with the construction of the sun deck at the pool and also with the Elks



bleachers and concession stand. Twice yearly rummage sales are held with most of the proceeds staying in the community helping the less fortunate. The Ladies assist the Elks during the Fair Days with the Elks Concession Booth. On Royal Purple Day the Ladies hold a tea and bingo at the Auxiliary Hospital for the patients. The Ladies assist the Elks wherever possible.

The Lodge suffered a great loss on March 12, 1978 when Mrs. Bella Munsterman passed away. In her memory, the Lodge donated two wheelchairs to the Immaculata Hospital. Bella was a charter member and held most offices of the Lodge including Honored Royal Lady in 1967. For the eighteen years that Bella was in the Lodge, she was a devoted member of the Order, always willing to assist wherever possible. May we all remember Bella as a true friend and worthy member of the Order of the Royal Purple.

On October 3, 1981 the Lodge suffered another great loss when Wilma McIntosh passed away. In her memory the Lodge presented the Maternity Ward at the Immaculata Hospital with a fetal heart monitor which has been very useful. Wilma joined the Lodge six months after it was instituted and held various positions including treasurer for thirteen years. She was Honored Royal Lady in 1973. For the twenty years Wilma was in the Lodge, she was a very dedicated member. May we all remember Wilma as a true friend and worthy member.

The leadership of the Order of the Royal Purple of Westlock since its inception was in the hands of the following ladies: 1960-61 Honored Royal Lady — Olive Conkin, Secretary — Gabby Dirk. 1961-62 Olive Conkin, Gabby Dirk. 1962-63 Olive Conkin 1963-64 Blanche Beeber, Bella Munsterman, 1964-65 Blanche Beeber, Lorrie Lane, 1965-66 Elsa Muller, Lorrie Lane, 1966-67 Molly Renaud, Lorrie Lane, 1967-68 Bella Munsterman, Wilma Nickel, 1968-69 Joyce Ritter, Wilma Nickel, 1969-70 Doreen Herndon, Wilma Nickel, 1970-71 Jeanette Gray, June Hobart, 1971-72 Florence Golonowski, June Hobart, 1972-73 Barbara Rode, June Hobart, 1973-74 Wilma McIntosh, June Hobart, 1974-75 Wilma Nickel, Anita Kitz, 1975-76 Julia Romaniuk, Anita Kitz, 1976-77 Julia Romaniuk, Anita Kitz, 1977-78 Jean Clapperton, Anita Kitz, 1978-79 Jean Clapperton, Anita Kitz, 1979-80 Mickey McIntosh, Anita Kitz, 1980-81 Mickey McIntosh, Anita Kitz, 1981-82 Allie Chemerinski, Anita Kitz, 1982-83 Anita Kitz, Jean Clapperton, 1983-84 Anita Kitz, Jean Clapperton.

The Lodge meets every second Wednesday at 8:00 P.M. in the Memorial Hall. The Order of the Royal Purple is an active community force, small in number but successfully fulfilling its charter aims.

## Westlock Agricultural Society submitted by Jenny Sterling

The first meeting of the Westlock and District Agricultural Society was held on January 28, 1914. Its purpose was the display of agricultural produce in competition, with the idea of improvement in mind. The list of officers was:

President	Herbert Greenfield
Vice Pres.	William H. Clarke
2nd Vice Pres.	Edwin Stanley
Sec. Treas.	Archie Brown
Directors	B. W. Allen
	James McGregor
	G. Maier
	J. Harper
	W. J. Baldwin
	John Edgson
	A. Roddick
	Arthur Edgson
	John Currey
	Jack Alton
	J. A. Galbraith
	J. W. Shutt

Auditor

At a meeting held April 6, 1914 three more directors were added:

Eric Anderson  
George McLachlan  
J. C. Belle

The following year three women were added to the directors in the persons of, Mrs. R. Wheatley, Mrs. J. W. Shutt, and Mrs. John A. Edgson to see to the directorship of the baking, sewing, schoolwork, garden produce, and fine arts, exhibited by the ladies.

The first year the date was set for Oct. 5, but it was rained out and was held later, on Oct. 29, 1914 and was a huge success. It was held on the farm of W. Westgate, the stock display outdoors, and the exhibits in a tent supplied by the railway company. Later on the exhibits were displayed upstairs above the George McTavish store. This was a yearly event until 1925 with the depression looming ahead it was dissolved to be reorganized again around 1935 or 1936 by district agriculturist E. G. Wood. Since then many willing volunteers have carried on this annual event. From 1914 to 1925 those holding office were:

President	Secretary
Herbert Greenfield	A. R. Brown
G. H. McKinlay	A. R. Brown
Herbert Greenfield	A. R. Brown
A. R. Brown	Maurice Gardam
James Watt	A. R. Brown

In 1921 Herbert Greenfield resigned as director of the organization, due to his becoming Premier of Alberta. Congratulations from the society were extended to him, a great honour for the town of Westlock. Since 1938 many willing volunteers have carried on. Presidents during that time, perhaps not listed on quite the right order of succession, have served their terms well, those being:

Miller Watt  
Walter Burchett  
Don Baker  
Les Hide  
Harvey Doherty  
Glynn Jones  
Bernie Forbes

John McDonald  
John McIntyre  
Bob Burns  
Les Hodge  
Doug Rice  
Fenner Clarke

with Earle Brown the president for 1982 and Lilian Hayes as secretary. Some eight years ago the fair

became a class A 3-day show. It has moved ahead with the times perhaps losing its primary agricultural aspect a bit. Today sports, midway, horse racing and chuck wagon races are some of the major attractions. However a very good exhibit and considerable stock entries, and an excellent parade make it the major event of each year, now held on permanent grounds on the west side of town.

## Westlock Oldtimers



Oldtimer's Banquet. Seated: Bert Lyons, Tessa Berry, Flo Smart. Mrs. Archie Brown, Mrs. Gilbert Adkins, Mrs. Andy Smith, Mrs. Jack McCrae, Mrs. Gordon Guest, Mrs. Bob Jorgenson, Bob Jorgenson, Forrest Adair, Daphne Garrison, Archie Hollingshead. Standing: Mrs. Bert Lyons, Mrs. Jim Murfitt, Andy Smith, Les Short, ?, Fred Lyons, ?, ?, Manford Reed, Mrs. Dios Smith and Dios Smith.



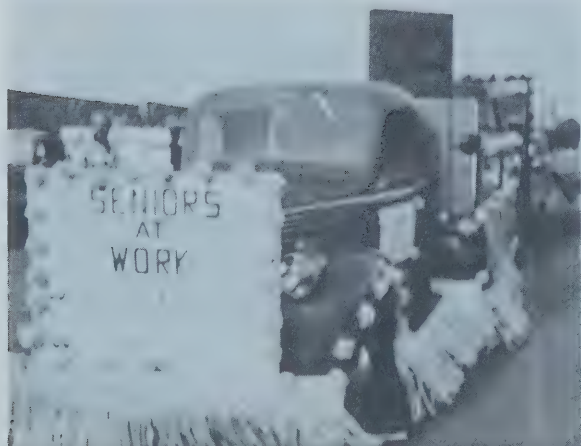
Oldtimer's Banquet — 1962-63. Seated: Mrs. George MacLachlan, Mrs. Floyd Baldwin, Mrs. Ernest Stanton, ?, ?, Archie Brown, Mrs. Ernest Hunt, Mrs. Joe Forbes, Mrs. Egar Stanton, Mrs. Bob Wheatley, ?, ?, ?, Mrs. Edgar Renton. Standing: George MacLachlan, Ernest Stanton, W. Elliott Sr., Joe Forbes, Will Guest, ?, Edgar Renton, Wolesley Clark and Billy McDonald.





Amos Photo, July 21, 1932. Old Timers' — Westlock-Clyde up to 1908. Back row: Elmer Alton, Jack Baldwin, Russell Sterling, Stewart MacLachlan, Barney McAlpine, Bill Guest, Emmet Berry, Allie Watt, George Guest Sr., unknown, Ben Allen, George Sterling, Floyd Baldwin, Harry Cannard, Gordon Guest, George Adkins. Third row: Ivan Garrison, Bert Alton, Daphne Garrison, Lloyd Garrison, Stuart Beatt, Mrs. Archie Brown, Clara Baldwin, Louie Sherwin, Olive Allen, Marie Guest, Lillian Stanley, Mrs. Will Guest, Jessie Leake, Rita Sterling, Alex McGregor, Mike Alton, Bill Taylor, Jack Dobie, Mrs. J. Alton, Jessie Curle, Mrs. M. Alton, Mrs. W. Sterling, Tessie Berry, Mrs. Wm. Garrison, Lena Gibson, Mrs. J. Baldwin, Mrs. J. Edgson, Mrs. J. Shutt, Mrs. Ben Allen, Mrs. Leake, Louise Adkins. Front row: Bill Garrison, Will Sterling, George MacLachlan, Art Edgson, Neil Forbes, Charles Edgson, Jack Edgson, Norman Garrison.

## Youth Activities



Float of the Westlock and District History Book Committee and the Westlock Old Timers Association.



CGIT Group, 1940. Back row: Vera Holtan, unknown, Mrs. Libby Hunter, Aileen Moss and Jean Armstrong. Front row: Lorraine Wilkins, Lorna Wood, Betty Hunter, Jean Gilchrist, and Rose Zacek.





Westlock First Boys Camp in 1924. Seated, L to R: Max Watt, Warren Smith, Robert Selfridge, Ray Smith, Allan McEwen. Middle row: Jack Harris, Allan McCullough, Harold Brown, Rev. M. M. McLean, Lloyd Brown, Jim Watt, Bill McCullough. Standing, L to R: Lawrence Armitage, Fred Manning, Lance Steele, Bud Dinwoodie.



First United Church Mission Band. Seated, L to R: Kathleen McArthur, Margaret Elliott, Alberta Wood, Florence Clifford, Betty Watt, Madge Smith, Elaine Armstrong, Margorie Watt, Myrnie Sands, Lorne Campbell, Gerald Adkins, Margorie Peter, Malcolm Henderson. First row, standing, L to R: Billy Peter, Kathleen Peter, Carol Stanton, Vivian McTavish, Margaret Laidlaw, Evelyn Jamieson, Jack Armstrong, Elise Henry, Margaret Elliott, Barry Pierce, Annabel Gilchrist, Kathryn Campbell, Doris Miller, Don Armstrong, Edward Janieson, Sidney Sands, Stewart Brown. Back row, L to R: Jean Brown, Mrs. Rhad Brown, Beth McCullough, Marion Smith, Margaret Butler, Elouise Clew, Jean Armstrong, Mary Henderson, Kathryn Pierce, Alice Butler, Ada Westgate, Adell Chapman, Alma Wood, Joyce Stanton, Dorothy Elliott, Jean Gilchrist, Betty Hunter, Mrs. D. K. Allen.





United Church Sunday School Choir, 1939.



CGIT Camp at Lac la Nonne. Killdeer beach about 1940.



Explorer Group, 1936. Leader, Mrs. Lydia Wood.



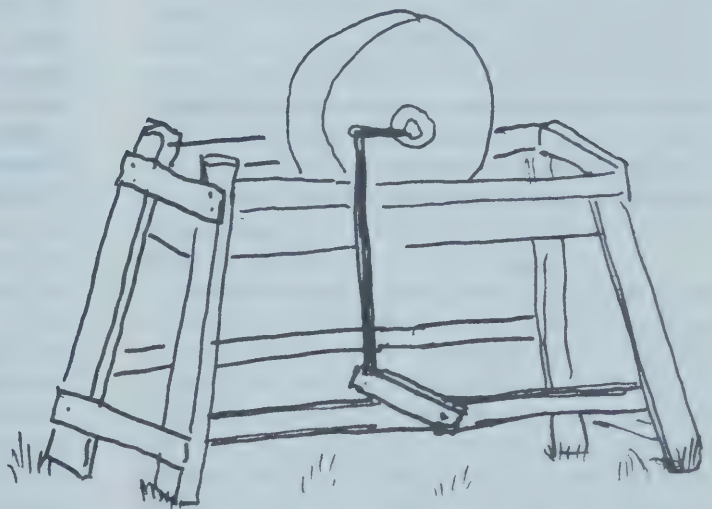
Westlock First Cub Pack, 1921-22, L to R: Bill McCullough, Freeman Wood, Rev. M. M. McLean, Robert Selfridge, unknown, John Armstrong, Jerry Brown, Lynn Geddes, Allan McCullough, Gordon Edgson, Cecil Hergott, Max Carter.



United Church Sunday School Picnic at the Pembina River in August, 1942.



Bathing Beauties at Lac La Nonne. The lone man is Mr. Brown from the Department of Extension.





## On The Road

by Neil Forbes

We were pioneers, for many years  
Out where the west begins  
We lived in log shacks, hewed out by the axe  
And shot rabbits for more than their skins  
As they hopped through the bush on the road.  
We drove halter-broke steers, and scorched their  
ears  
With remarks on their dams and sires  
“Gol darn their hides”, and much more besides  
Which was strictly “Ultra Vires.”  
As they plodded along on the road.  
We took up land, and we felt just grand  
When our first crop came into view  
But a cutworm horde, came along to board  
And what could a poor fellow do?  
Get a job, in the Fall, on the road.  
Came the railroad grade, what a change it made  
We had visions of wealth from afar  
As we slaughtered steers, of tender years  
For the men on the Johnson bar  
And we worked for a while on the road.  
Then came the villages, and how they did pillage  
us  
Of taxes to run their schools  
Preached Higher Education and Consolidation

Seemed afraid the kids would be fools  
If they walked a few miles on the Road.  
Then they found the War, the world was looking  
for  
We found we had Democracy to save.  
So pioneers and sons, went forth to man the guns  
And many of them found an unknown grave  
Yet the lights were set at danger on that Road  
In those days the banker, for business did hanker  
He welcomed you in by the hand  
Said your credit was good, and but right you  
should  
Raise a loan on your farm and expand  
Buy that quarter just over the Road.  
Then came the Depression, with its sad confession  
Of financial cunning and greed  
With interest compounded, we are badgered and  
hounded  
Till usury has robbed us of our meed  
And we’re back, where we started, on the Road  
After thirty years, of hopes and fears  
Tis a bitter bitter pill for us to swallow  
And unless there comes a change, far ahead we’ll  
have to range  
Pioneering for the mob that sure will follow  
When we’re all turned out on the Road.

# Communication and Transportation

## **C.F.O.K. Radio Station, Westlock**

C.F.O.K. Radio Station is situated on 99th street in Westlock and was built in 1975.

It was owned by Roger Charest of Charest Communications Ltd. It was managed by Stuart Morton, who later became part owner of the Station.

Their first day on the air was August 19th, 1975.

O.K. Radio talks with the people of the community. Talks about agriculture, news, sports, local events, together with O.K. music and O.K. personalities.

C.F.O.K. Radio Station is now owned by C.F.O.K. Broadcasting Limited and is currently managed by Len Novak.

## **The C.N.R. Station at Clyde**

**Kathleen MacLachlan**

The railway station which had for almost 70 years borne the neat black sign CLYDE had its windows unceremoniously boarded over, its substantial base jacked up from its foundation so that the building could be placed on the low-boy to be hauled to its new destination west of Rochester to be used by the purchaser as a residence. It seemed as if the shutters were closed on a pioneering era which could never be re-lived. What memories that station must have within its walls! At present it is sitting on the farm of Phil Floyd, north-east of Rochester, and may be used as a museum. The station adutting the loading platform was sturdily built with a spacious waiting room, separated by a wicket and writing shelf from the office where the agent had his "sending" and "receiving" key, as all messages were given in Morse Code in the early days. A door from the office led to the freight and express room. Behind, and above these rooms were the living quarters for the agent and his family. Under the freight shed was a large coal bin to store coal which the train brought in to fuel the huge pot-bellied heater in the waiting room, and also to supply heat and cooking fuel for the dwelling area. The station was well supplied with windows to admit

sunlight during the day, and emit welcoming lamplight at night.

The station agent received all mail, express, freight, and assorted baggage from any destination, and had to make out freight slips and bills of lading for carloads of materials both arriving and leaving the Clyde Station.

When the C.N.R. train came to Clyde from Edmonton on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, it brought all the freight for the stores, all the mail, all the express and assorted baggage which was unloaded on the station platform. The local drayman with his horsedrawn flatrack pulled up along side the platform to await the arrival of the train which had a definite schedule, but for various reasons was often late. In the interval of waiting, many of the townspeople (chiefly men) assembled on the platform to swap yarns, and to be on hand to see what cargo was arriving. On one such occasion when the train pulled in rather late in the afternoon, two sharp-eyed old buddies noticed a fair-sized wine barrel being set down. Said Sam to Jim, "Did you see what I saw?" "Sure did", replied Jim, whereupon, when the agent was busy checking out other freight, the two nimble-wits rolled the barrel down the ramp, and hid it under the platform. In the darkness of night they retrieved the keg, and laboriously, turn about, carried it to the bush on the picnic grounds, and for a few days, made frequent trips to the "cache" until the contents had been consumed. No one ever found out where Father Koolen's communion wine had gone!

A station agent receiving messages on the Morse Key sometimes conveyed sadness, and sometimes joy to the recipient. Mr. Savage frequently delivered messages personally. In World War I, it was painful to carry the sentence, "John Doe, killed in action, July 21," or "John Doe missing since April 21, presumed dead". On the other side of the coin, how joyful to have the "ticker" tap out the message, "Hostilities ended, November 11, 1918". Present day communication has relegated Morse to antiquity.

The early station agents seemed to stay only a



short time at any one point. In 1911, the Tilleys who were transferred to Athabasca, were followed by the Joe Wilsons, who in turn, were followed by the Hickses. The agent and family who had the longest tenure in Clyde were the Hugh Savages who came in 1915, and remained until Mr. Savage's retirement.

Each station agent and his family contributed talents to the community. Mrs. Savage, an accomplished pianist, gave of her talents to train young people in choral work for concerts and United Church programs. Latterly, she played in the Clyde dance orchestra with Leslie Saisbury on violin, and Jim Milligan on drums. She coached her own daughter, Janet, and friend, Dorothy McKee, to sing and give dramatic performances at most local concerts. Hugh Savage with his base voice, and George Bangs, tenor, partook in church choir work, and was also known to recite Drummond's "Little Batiste," and "Johnny Corteau".

After retirement, Mr. and Mrs. Savage lived for a time on a farm just east of Clyde. Later they made their home with their daughter, Janet and her husband, Fred Smith, who operated a drug store at Coleman. Later still, they moved to Edmonton, and lived with their son, Albert, a Provincial Government employee, and his wife, Pauline, a well known nurse at the Royal Alex. Both Mr. and Mrs. Savage lived into their 80's, and were subsequently buried in Dungannon Cemetery, where their elder daughter, Thelma, a victim of tuberculosis, had preceded them many years previously.

The Stephens family were next in residence at the Clyde station. Mr. Stephens and his son, Elwood, became well known for their skill in electronics, repairing radios, and almost anything electrical. "Stevie" as he was known, was also an avid curler and skip. The next incumbent at the Station was "Shauney" O'Shaughnessy, a talented violinist, who, after the Station's demise, operated a music store in Westlock. He and his wife, Jean, a gifted pianist gave lessons in their respective fields. Mrs. O'Shaughnessy passed away some time ago, but Shauney still resides in Westlock, frequently visited by his daughter, Marilyn, and sons, Neil and David.

With the passing of this panorama of activity and happiness, is it any wonder if the Station feels sad?

## **Eastburg Post Office by Dorothy Baker**

The first Post Office to serve the Eastburg community was established in Alfred East's home on his farm on September 15, 1908.

On September 15, 1910, James McGregor got the contract for handling mail and held it until June 23, 1916, when the Post Office was closed.

Mr. Garrett Hoogers got the new contract and opened the post office in his home on October 1, 1916. This post office was closed on August 8, 1924.

Mr. Dudley Inglis Graham opened a post office in his home on December 1, 1924, and it remained open until February 28, 1946. This closing marked the end of an era for the people of Eastburg.

## **Pembina Post Office and Riverdale School District as it affects the local people and especially the Letts family**

Two brothers, Thomas W. Letts and George Henry (Harry) Letts, arrived in Edmonton from Quebec in November 1904, with two C.P.R. carloads of "Settlers Effects", which consisted of household furniture and utensils, farm tools, wagons, sleighs, and the livestock; horses, cows and sheep.

From Edmonton they drove north to their homesteads on the Pembina River, cutting dry grass with the scythe in small meadows along the way, to supplement the oats they had bought in Edmonton for feed for the livestock. The quarters they had chosen for homesteads were the SW 24-60-1-W5 and the NW 13-60-1-W5, which at that time were part of the North West Territories.

In March, 1905, their families joined them. I, Nelson Letts, was only thirteen months old then, and had come to the farm with my mother, Alice (Mrs. Harry Letts) and Aunt Margaret (Mrs. Tom Letts). My sister, Dorothy, who later became Mrs. Stephens, was born on the farm in 1907, and later, in 1910, a brother was born who is now Dr. T. Blake Letts of Namao, Alberta.

During 1935, Harry and Alice started a store on their farm, encouraged by the possibility of having a post office. This later became a reality, when the Pembina Post Office was approved. After a while the post office was taken over by T. W. Letts, and some time later, when E. A. Letts (Earnest) came west from Ontario with his family, it again changed hands with Earnest taking over. The post office was closed in 1916 in favor of a rural route, which is still in force. Eventually, all the Letts brothers went into farming and are still operating. There were few neighbours at first, but it wasn't long before more settlers arrived, many of them bachelors.

People came to the store from as far as Eastburg, fifteen miles to the south and from Jarvie, sixteen miles north, often on foot or horseback through natural heavy bush, mud or snow, to get mail and groceries. The mail was brought to the post office by Joe and Harvey Beauchamp, of the Edison district. Groceries were hauled from Revillon Wholesale in Edmonton by Harry Letts, either by sleigh or wagon,

according to the season. This was a five day round trip, with a team of draft horses. As a small boy, I recall men trekking to the store for groceries, then building a raft at the river bank, then loading their purchases on the raft and going down river, taking fifteen to twenty hours to float their load home. Among these men were Jock Seatter, Wilfred Budgen, Charlie Morris, Mr. Crispell and others. Native people, in boats and canoes also came to trade for new potatoes and other commodities.

At first I had only one playmate, Tom Golder, who lived nearby. As time passed, other settlers moved in and we had many new neighbours. There were the Smiths, Clarks, Telfords, DeGraffs, Mrs. Spenser, Millers, Woods, Harts, Wilks, Allens, MacDougalls, Brabazons, Hodge, Elliotts, M. Rose, the Moss family and many others.

We moved from Riverdale to Sunnybank district in 1910. At about that time our grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Letts, arrived here from Quebec and homesteaded the NE¼-28-60-27-W4. Also George Stuthers, his wife and little girl, Emily, came to live in the district. Emily is now the wife of Gerry Dyk and they live in Westlock. Later, about 1912, Earnest and Emma Letts, with their family of three children, Harry, Alice and John, arrived here from Ontario. Another son, Lawrence, was born to the family some time later.

Of all these last mentioned people, only three survivors remain. They are Emily Dyk and John and Harry Letts. We believe these all died in faith, looking for the resurrection and eternal bliss with Jesus Christ.

In 1935 my wife, Agnes (née Calderwood) and I, along with our three children, moved to this farm, where soon another member joined the family, our son, Park. Our first son, Dr. James Letts, lives with his wife, Caroline (née Lyons) and family in Calgary, where he has a psychiatrist's office. Dorothy, our daughter, a homemaker and teacher, married Albert Lyons, who farms, and they and their family live in the Westlock district. Alex, our second son, is married to Margaret (née Gibson) and they reside in St. Albert with their family. Alex taught school for some time, then became a school superintendent and is now administrator for the Sturgeon School District. Park, who married Beth Lyons, lives on the farm, where he makes a specialty of raising cattle. They and their family live in the Westlock district.

All our children took their schooling at Riverdale, Sunnybank and Westlock, and completed their education by attending the University of Alberta.

As there was no bridge over the Pembina River in the early days, and crossing to the other side was often a necessity, a wooden ferry was constructed

and began operating in 1916. This became known as "Letts Ferry" and was a real boon to the settlers. It operated for many years, even after bridges were built but it finally became obsolete and was abandoned.

In the years between 1905 and 1983, we have seen this area change from almost complete bush, with considerable merchantable timber, to an almost complete agricultural area, producing untold tons of grains, fodder and grasses. When we note the beautiful flowers and gardens, small orchards and orderly shelter belts, as well as good roads and paved highways, we feel a deep satisfaction in having had a small part in all these changes.

## The Post Office Story

Early in 1913 the Edison Post Office was moved to Westlock and Mr. Jesse Bell, who operated a store on the present hospital site, became Post Master.

On June 3, 1914, Mr. Bert Alton became Postmaster and moved the Post Office from the previous site to a building owned by Mrs. Clark situated where the Red Head garage once operated, which is now the site of the Treasury Branch.



Official opening of Westlock's new Post Office. Wilma MacIntosh Postmistress (right) and Fanny Sterling.

In November 1914, Mr. John Dezall became Postmaster and the office was moved to a building owned by Mr. Dezall, situated next to Dios Smith's hardware store, south-west of the NAR Station. Miss Katherine McIntosh, later Mrs. Len Clesson, was assistant to Mr. Dezall until 1924, when Miss Elinor Griswold became assistant. In November, 1926, Mr. J. Nolan from Edmonton Post Office took over.



In October, 1927, the post office asked for bids for the position of postmaster. W. S. Armstrong was declared the successful applicant. Because of her previous experience Mrs. Len Clesson was asked to come back during the Christmas rush. From February, 1928 until February, 1929, there were a number of assistants until Miss Wilma McIntosh became assistant. In 1938, Miss McIntosh became chief assistant, then, when Mr. Armstrong retired in 1962, she became Post Mistress, a position she held for eleven years.

In 1973 Mr. Roy Barnard took over the duties of Postmaster and is efficiently filling that position at the present time, with the help of his assistant, Don Foster and a staff of seven full-time workers and two part-time.

### **Recollections of Railroading in Westlock** **Grant Wagner**

I was born in the Westlock railroad station in 1925 and lived there until 1943 when I joined the armed forces. When I mention my birthplace, most persons believe that my mother was a traveler, and didn't quite make it to the hospital on time. I must then explain that my father, Joe Wagner, was the station agent, that the station was our home, and that there was no hospital in Westlock at that time.

The station in those years was an exciting place. So much affecting our town and district centred on the coming and going of trains, and on the telegraph service. During my residence there, the arrival of the passenger train always drew a crowd, and the evening air echoed to the clank of cream cans being unloaded, happy voices shouting hellos and good-byes, and steam hissing from the waiting engine. There was also a special odor in the air — a blended smell of coal smoke and the kerosene burned in the lanterns of the train crew.

Then, with a shouted "all aboard" from the conductor, bell clanging and a sharp whistle, the train

would start to move on its northward journey, heading to distant frontier points with people, mail and supplies for the northern portion of our province, and beyond. I think all who watched from the platform wished that they too could be part of this exciting journey as the brightly lit diner flashed by, followed by the sleeping cars with historic names such as Cassiar, Pouce Coupe, Valhalla and Spirit River. The red lights at the end of the train twinkled off into the distance and the platform crowd would disperse to the Post Office for the mail, to Clarke's Cafe for coffee, or just home, many with thoughts of traveling someday by train to Edmonton or even Vancouver to escape the quiet hum-drum existence of our small, rural community.

Life in the station was, however, never dull. There were such events as the arrival of circus cars and coaches with their exotic cargoes of rides, animals and people; the military trains of 1942 and 1943 speeding American soldiers and heavy equipment to northern railheads for the construction of the Alaska Highway and the Canol Pipeline, and the freight trains of the 1930's with their human cargo riding the rods and the boxcar tops — a free trip from the drought-parched lands of the prairies to the anticipated but seldom discovered bounty of the Peace River country.

How many of these poor travelers my mother fed I cannot say, but from my childhood memories it seems as though there were hundreds. Later, she would somewhat sadly reflect that she fed the entire "Mexican Army". They would scamper off the boxcars while the train stopped for coaling and for running orders, and would ask to fill their water bottles and for a bit of bread. She obliged to the extent that our larder would allow.

A day of horror stays in my mind when one of the men running for the moving train slipped and was dragged beneath the train wheels. He was badly mangled and died within a few minutes. The police went through his pockets and packsack but could find no identification. His possessions were meagre and included some well-worn clothes, shaving gear and an army blanket. The items were left unclaimed in the station freight shed for many years, and the old army blanket — world war one model — is still in my possession.

Those difficult years brought other problems. Passenger trains were reduced to two each week and general freight traffic was negligible. Many COD parcels arriving could not be claimed for lack of money and Dad would sometimes "accommodate" people by letting them take their shipments on the promise of paying later. Most did pay, but for those who did not, Dad was financially liable. He learned



U.S. equipment Alaska bound, Westlock station, May 1942.



Rail line re-construction, Westlock, June 1936.

the hard way who could be depended on! There was also a time in the early 1930's when movie film would come by train on a COD basis. The local show was scheduled to start at about train time. If enough tickets had been sold the show operator would dash over to the station, pay the COD film rental charges, and the show would go on. If the crowd was small and the COD could not be covered, the show was cancelled and the film would be returned unclaimed to Edmonton on the next train.

Perhaps the saddest times for my father in his close to fifty years of railroading occurred during the war years when telegrams from the Department of National Defence were frequently received announcing the death or injury of local men in action. Although I delivered most telegrams for Dad, he always handled these messages personally. He would lock up the station and start his melancholy journey to homes that would forever be affected by the news he was to deliver. Sometimes the news was good, such as the return of a loved one from overseas or the award of a military honour. When possible, Dad would telephone relatives in advance to say that he was about to come over with some good news, and not to worry when they saw him arrive.

Dad, for most of his time as station agent at Westlock, had no assistant agent so apart from delivering telegrams, I had other tasks to perform such as helping around the office and unloading baggage and freight. Cream cans were my specialty, as hundreds of five and eight gallon cans were regularly shipped to the Westlock Creamery from points as far away as Peace River Town and Dawson Creek, British Columbia.

The most demanding chore, however, was to keep the fires burning in the four large stoves which heated the station office, the waiting room and the living quarters. The station was so poorly built that the winter winds literally blew right through the building. Fortunately, the railroad company supplied all the coal we could use at no charge, and each fall, a box car load was emptied into the large coal shed next to the main station building. In later years I calculated that each of the four large stoves used three 50 pound coal scuttles of coal each day over a 100 day winter period. This is approximately 30 tons of coal. Hauling out the resultant clinkers and ashes were also part of the daily routine.

In addition to having unlimited free coal, our family also enjoyed all the milk and cream we could drink, for Dad ran a small dairy operation that served Westlock from 1927 to 1939. He did his utmost to make it a model dairy business with a good product at a low price. Indeed, during the depression years, quart milk tickets sold for as little as 16 for one dollar, and even then many customers to whom credit had been extended could not pay their accounts. With great sadness he disposed of his fine herd of milk cows in 1939, and went out of the dairy business.

Dad and Mother lived in the station from 1923 until 1947, when Dad retired after 49 years of railroading. He had started his career in the late 1890's as



Rail line re-construction, Westlock, June 1936.



a telegrapher with Wells Fargo and later the Great Northern Railroad in the United States. He was an early member of the Railroad Telegraphers' Union who were at that time fighting for recognition and for improved working conditions. The Union was broken by the railroad companies and union members were fired and "black-balled" by all railroads in the United States.

Dad then moved to Canada to work for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. He met and married my Mother, Emilie Svoboda, in Nelson, British Columbia, where she lived with her family. Dad subsequently accepted employment with the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railroad (now the Northern Alberta Railways) and was station agent at McLennan, a northern divisional point, prior to transferring to Westlock in 1923.

Dad and Mother were both of Czechoslovakian ancestry and Dad was particularly active in supporting the emergence of a free Czechoslovak nation after World War I. For his services he received a citation from Dr. Thomas Masaryk, the first president of the new nation.

Both Mother and Father now lie at rest in the Westlock Cemetery, only a short distance from the railbed of the NAR which was so much a part of their lives. The station no longer exists nor does the sign which welcomed travelers — "Westlock, the premier district of Alberta, the place where wheat is grown at the lowest cost and highest yield on the North American continent". Westlock will however always be a premier town and district to those of us who remember it from years long past.

## Road Building

In the early days of 1902, the first settlers made their way by blazing trails through bush country and the prairie grass land, followed later by others.

These trails became the first roads. Streams and rivers had to be forded and mud holes crossed by laying poles across, commonly known as corduroy. Many were the hardships and delays caused by these obstructions. Trails were shortened by means of men and horsepower, the use of slips and freznos and later graders and the roads took shape.

Each season a road boss or foreman, was chosen, all settlers doing their bit with horses and mules. Much bantering and good fellowship accompanied the work and was eagerly sought after as means of paying one's taxes.

Later came power road equipment, gravel trucks and maintainers, to give us good all-weather roads to be surpassed in recent years by hard surfacing.

In the short space of fifty years of team, wagons, stage, buggy and democrat, followed by Model T,

had given way to a splash of color in our stream-lined beauty of the day. Let's hope drivers of today pause in appreciation.



Charlie and Deisel Parsons building bridge over the creek.



Sid Phillips building road.



Ray Wharton, Jack Roy and George Lefebvre building roads.



Road working.



Road working in Pickardville area 1915. 1st team; Laurant Fradette, 2nd team, Felix Goupie, and Road Boss: Stuart Marler.



First road building grader in the Hazelwood municipality.



Steel bridge over the Pembina River.

## Telephone Service at the "Bluff."

by Albert Baker

as told to Dorothy Baker

Today, as we use the touch-tone phone, direct distance dialing, and toll-free numbers, we may take for granted the energy and persistence of effort that has brought us to this stage in the field of communications. Gone is the sense of isolation from neighbors because of physical distance or the real sense of separation from family in other provinces or countries. Our doctor, our priest, our minister, our school or hospital are all as near as our telephone. The "singing wires" as Tony Cashman has called them, speed up our business transactions and bring us emergency assistance in time of need.

The pioneers of this area had to depend on much more primitive means of communication. The coming of the railway to Clyde in 1912 and to Westlock in 1913 brought the telegraph repeater which gave greater access to the outside world.

The purpose of this article is to trace the growth and development of telephone service in the Westlock area from its early days to 1970. The history of the early period is either oral history or taken from letters, etc. From 1932 until 1970, complete sets of minutes were used as reference plus details from participating company subscribers from the former lines 1, 2 and 3.

### Part 1. The Early Days, 1914-1932.

It is reported that George Guest Jr., worked at getting out poles for a line to Westlock as early as 1914, just before he enlisted in World War I. The line from Hazel Bluff to Westlock was put up in 1915 and 1916. Miller Watt, now of Penticton, in a letter quotes his brother Bob as saying, "A. R. Brown and Alex McGregor had much to do with building this line. I remember the posts over the railway tracks had to be 25 feet high over the track. These posts proved to be very slim and, as I was up on one, it swayed like a tree, making it feel like it was 40 feet high." This line perhaps was the first to be connected to the government line in Westlock.

To cover the cost of construction and installation, shares were sold at \$90.00; the original phones were purchased from Canadian Independent Phone Co., in Ontario; the trouble man was a fellow named Abbot. He was assisted in his work by James Watt who had had experience in line building in Ontario in 1910 before he came west. Day service only was provided at a charge of fifty-cents a month. Brush growing along the lines was the main problem. "Bees" of workers were organized to keep the lines clear. Albert Baker recalls his dad phoning his own mother in Edmonton in 1916 to let her know they had just had the phone installed. Like all mothers, she



was very concerned. "What was wrong? What had happened?" A phone call could bring bad news, and often did.

Originally, there were three lines built to accommodate the hamlet of Westlock and the area to the west. The main line was parallel to the Baseline (now Highway 18) on the north side of the road. Line I of this mainline included such subscribers of Westlock as George McTavish (storekeeper), John Dezzal (postmaster), Lennox Tice (druggist), J. W. Shutt (notary public), A. Montpellier (Case implement agent), as well as farmers Harvey and Jim Patterson, O. H. Hunter and B. C. Alton.

Line 2 subscribers lived north of the Baseline and included Mac MacDougall, Wm. Brooks, Wm. Lyons, Tom Letts, and across the Pembina River to Stanley Allen, James Watt, Allie Watt and others.

Line 3 subscribers lived south of the Baseline and included Levi Wilson, Mrs. E. M. Baker, F. Earl Violet, Egar and Ernie Stanton, and George Guest, Jr. plus several others.

Line 4 to the Sunnybank area, and other extensions were added later.

A members register dated 1926 lists these subscribers, plus many more, who were shareholders at the time that the Westlock Farmers Rural Mutual Telephone Company was incorporated as a limited company. Shares to new subscribers in this company were sold at \$65.00 each. Some phones were later disconnected or shares changed ownership as land or businesses changed hands.

## **Part II January 23, 1932 — February, 1970.**

Mr. J. E. Hammond was secretary-treasurer in 1932, the year for which complete minutes and records are available. He and his successors did a fine job of "keeping the books."

Old-timers well recall the hard times of the 1930's. The telephone company pressed their subscribers for full and prompt payment of accounts in order to keep the company solvent. It is reported one farmer was "going to sell some wheat in a short while and would then make a payment on his account." Stanley Allen had to be paid \$3.10 for work he had done on the line. Albert Baker had also worked on the line to the amount of \$3.95 and A. R. Brown had charged \$2.50 for auditing the books.

In order to trim costs, the salary of the secretary was trimmed by \$25.00 to \$110.00 and troubleman Albert Baker's wage was reduced to thirty cents an hour with "mileage at five-cents a mile where the car is used." In that year, five "gangs" of men were organized to do repair work on the lines in July. This work included resetting and stubbing poles, collecting wire, cutting poles and hauling poles and wire.

At a special meeting that December, a motion was

passed that Alberta Government Telephones be petitioned to reduce the switching charges from \$9 to \$6 per instrument in view of the differing economic conditions since the memorandum of agreement was signed in 1925. This motion was refused by the government and so the matter was tabled. The secretary's salary was reduced to \$75.00 but he was allowed to mail three sets of subscribers bills. He still had to personally call on shareholders to collect fees in June, October and February.

In 1933, the Northern Alberta Railway insisted that the wires crossing the tracks at Westlock were too low and that if they were not raised then they would have to be cut. The directors decided to purchase new poles.

In January 1935, Mrs. Christina Lyons became secretary-treasurer. Business was concerned with rebuilding the line from Westlock to the Fifth Meridian. Of the forty-eight listed shareholders, only twenty-two were receiving services and contributing to the cost and upkeep of the line. Non-active members were asked to help pay and work out the cost of rebuilding the line, but they couldn't be re-connected until the amount charged had been paid by them. Jack Agnew bought 71 poles in the Shoal Creek area for fifty cents apiece; F. Wightman hauled 24 of them for twenty five cents each. These poles were peeled by Messrs. Crone, Reed and Cameron.

Then the board of directors decided to approach the government about the possibility of using government line on the south side of the Baseline for the Westlock-Fifth Meridian line instead of building the farmers line.

Archie Hollingshead, who was the A.G.T. man in Westlock was contacted about this and in April, 1937, it was decided to follow the new plan which would give 2-wire, one circuit service at a rental of five cents per year, per pin. It was decided to begin this work on August 25, if Archie was available to help.

This project would take some time but it was finished just before World War II broke out. Earl Violet made a reel to wind the wire off the farmers' line by bolting a drum to the hind wheel of a Model T Ford car. It cost \$4.00, and as Albert Baker said, "Could that thing ever wind wire."

A new provision was made for the paying of telephone bills at this time. Instead of bills being paid at central telephone office, subscribers would be able to pay bills at Torrie's Drug Store, which received 5% commission.

At the annual meeting on February 27, 1939, Mrs. W. Lyons moved and Ben Allen seconded a vote of thanks to the directors of the company for the "excellent work and service rendered in the past

year." These were President — Jim Cameron, Sr., Vice-President — Manford Reed, Directors — S. Allen, W. H. Baker, M. MacDougall, J. Agnew, Secretary — E. Violet and Troubleman — A. Baker.

In order to improve reception further the board of directors purchased one thousand feet of new black wire to be used to connect the subscriber's phone to the company line. At about this time, company shares were revalued at \$10.00 each.

During World War II, materials were in very short supply since the needs of the country at war had to be met first. After the war, returning veterans established themselves in the area, and there was a demand for extensions to the existing lines west and south of Highway 18 particularly. This necessitated the buying of many new poles — fifty from Stan Kasawski of Flatbush. New equipment and a second circuit to Westlock was installed, using copper wire.

The increased number of phones on the line kept trouble men A. Baker, Roy Brown and later Ernie Baker and Barry Stanley very busy indeed, keeping the lines as trouble free as possible. Rules regarding five-minute time limit on the use of the phone, regulations regarding prompt payment of bills, a rate increase of twenty-five cents a month, a \$1.50 increase per subscriber per year to the secretary, increase in troubleman's wages to \$1.50 an hour, phone number beginning with numerals 2 and 3 were changed to numbers beginning with 12, 16 and 17 — lots of details to look after.

At the annual meeting held on February 16, 1948, a vote of thanks was expressed to Earl Violet, who had been secretary since 1936 and to James Cameron who had been president since 1935. A similar vote was extended to Mac MacDougall in 1957 for his services to the company since 1919.

Archie Hollingshead, in a letter to Francis Flintoff, secretary, in February, 1957, discusses the possibility of an automatic dial system being installed in Westlock in "not more than twelve months." "It would be advisable," he continues, "to do what you can in anticipation of this change, particularly in clearing brush from the wires. I understand loans are available to Mutual Companies for re-habilitation of their lines preparatory to conversion . . . work you can do yourselves would cost two dollars an hour.

"It is the general policy, when an exchange is cut over to automatic, to limit the number of subscribers on a line to not more than 12; ten is the general number. This will, in many cases, necessitate adding more circuits."

In preparation for the change, new treated poles, costing \$6.00 each, were bought, and complete new lines were built. The cost of a share increased to \$90.00, money was borrowed for new line con-

struction and the contract to put in new poles was awarded to Einar Neilsen and Archie Howie at \$1.75 for lane poles and \$2.50 for line poles — contract accepted October 15, 1961. At a general meeting in April, 1961, each subscriber was assessed twenty hours of work at \$1.50 an hour or \$30.00. The new troublemen, Dave Cross and R. Horricks, assisted by B. Stanley. The M.D. of Westlock did the cat work, the old copper wire was replaced, two new wires were strung from Westlock. A new line was built to the Peat Moss Plant — it was pulled down four years later.

At a general meeting held on December 4, 1967, a motion was made that the company accept the A G T terms of contract and preparations were begun to close down the company. The equipment had to be disposed of; the directors were responsible for dismantling the line; the collateral was divided equally between active shareholders; gratuities were given to Hazel Bluff Church and Hazel Bluff Hall for use of their facilities over the years; the phones were offered for sale at \$5.00 each and a complimentary box of chocolates was given to the drug store staff who had co-operated so well.

On February 7, 1970, a motion for dissolution of the Westlock Farmers Rural Mutual Telephone Company was moved by Jarvis Clesson and seconded by Don Baker and carried. A later directors meeting decided that each subscriber would get ten poles and one roll of wire. John MacIntyre moved that the bank account be closed and the assets be divided equally among subscribers.

Alberta Government Telephones assumed the work of providing telephone services from that time forward. Several changes, including underground wiring, were soon evident.

It is only fitting to close with an expression of gratitude to all the hard working and devoted people who gave so much time and gratis work in providing telephone service to this small area of Alberta. Truly, they left the place better then they found it.

List of Officers since 1932

Presidents: B. C. Alton, J. Cameron, W. H. Baker, Sigurd Olsen, Joe Baker.

Secretaries: J. Hammond, Mrs. A. Lyons, F. E. Violet, James Cameron, F. Flintoff.

Troublemen through the years: James Hammond, Albert Baker, Roy Brown, Barry Stanley, Ernie Baker, Dave Cross, Bob Horricks.

#### **Update**

Dial Telephones

On March 31, 1962, a commemorative dinner sponsored by the Westlock and District Chamber of Commerce and Alberta Government Telephones was held in the Westlock Memorial Hall to celebrate the



changeover to Dial Telephones throughout the Westlock district.

After a sumptuous banquet catered to by the Westlock Lutheran Ladies Aid, all persons at the dinner were invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony and a tour of the new exchange.

President Ron Johnson introduced the head table guests: Reeve Grant Burroughs for the Westlock M.D., Mayor C. A. Muller of Westlock, Mr. G. Ades for A G T., Hon. R. Reiersen, Minister of Telephones and Hon. R. D. Jorgenson, Minister of Welfare and M L A for Pembina.

Demonstration calls via a public address system showed the interested people how this new system would operate and a lucky draw was made for a North American phone call.

### Westlock Telephone Service by Archie Hollingshead

The first local telephone system was built in Westlock in 1920 by the Alberta Government Telephones. Mr. Archie Hollingshead was the Superin-



New Telephone Office building, Westlock.



The old Telephone Office switchboard located in a room of Mrs. Selfridge's home. Barbara McCrae and Helen de Rappard at work, 1943.

tendent of Construction at that time. Prior to that, farmers west of town had built a party line of their own. The North, East and South areas were served by the Government rurals.

Mrs. B. Swan and daughters were agent and operators and the Dr. Geddes house was rented for an office. On completion of exchange installation in November of 1920, Miss Clara Jorgenson was ensconced as agent operator in a small frame office erected adjacent to Charlie Roulston's Echo Printery. Prior to that, "Central" was a small switchboard in the George McTavish store, with Elizabeth McGregor as the "Hello Girl". At that time Westlock was served by a farmer-owned party line strung around the streets, serving the doctors, a few businesses and some residents. Notably among these former were the Lennox Tice Drugs, and the Paddy and Weiner fur buying office. The accent on agriculture gave the farmers precedence over the town dwellers in telephone installation.



The Westlock Farmers Rural Mutual Telephone Company.

The Alberta Government bought the Bell Company's interest in 1908, and began extending toll lines. The North line to Morinville reached Clyde about 1912 and a branch went west to Edison. A couple of years later the line was extended to Hazel Bluff, and another went to Athabasca. These initial lines were called tributary toll lines, and there was a phone at intervals of four or five miles, generally in a farm-house.

# Culture

## The Farmers Maple Leaf Band by G. A. McMillan

In the summer of 1929, Mr. William Spencer went to Mr. Bert Spargo, who lived a mile and a half north of Alcomdale, and suggested starting a brass band. He asked Bert, "If I get the boys, will you lead the band?" The next Saturday night seven boys showed up at Bert Spargo's to organize a band. They were W. Spencer, Arlo Spencer, Arnold Wiedrick, Alex McMillan, Bill, Henry and Ward Munro. These boys were all from northeast of Busby.

Instruments were bought from a Mr. Sloane, who was connected with brass bands in Edmonton. Some instruments came from Robinson and Sons and the slide trombone from Tip the Tailor.

The first meetings were held in a bunkhouse on the Spargo farm, but as the membership grew more room was needed, so we organized a "bee" and built a log cabin for meetings and practices. At first we called it the Busby Brass Band but as members eventually were from Alcomdale and Independence, the name was changed to The Farmers Maple Leaf Band.

Bert Spargo recalls the many weeks of practice till midnight, and the weary hours of practicing scales and expressions, he with a baton in one hand, a horn in his ear and a headache! At last he decided we should play together. The harmonious result was good, very good, and we were ready for the world.

The band held several dances. When the new



Farmers Maple Leaf Band. Back row, L to R: Lorrie Davidson, Tom McMillan, George Munro, Bill Munro, Art Spencer, Don Whitson, Art Morin, Bert Spargo, Ward Munro, Arnold Wiedrick, Henry Munro, Britton Mills and Alex McMillan. Front Row: Bert Mitchell, Allen Mills, Dick Whitson, Bill Spencer, Stan Munro and Ward Fulton.



band hall was finished, it was used for band dances and card parties, as well as a practice hall. The first dance held in the Busby Hall was a disaster, financially. It was to raise money for the band but we went twenty dollars in the hole. Mr. E. Wiedrick bailed us out, and each member gave two dollars and sixty-five cents to repay him. That was quite a sum of money in those days. However, we had learned what not to do and later dances were most successful.

Band concerts were held in the district halls, followed by a dance. The annual Hallowe'en masquerade dance was not soon forgotten.

The Band played for several years at the annual Busby Fair. The first year the band received fifteen dollars, but in later years that was increased to twenty-five dollars for the afternoon. The band played one year at a picnic at Island Lake, east of Clyde.

After the first instruments were bought, most of the members bought their own, except the big horns and baritones. Members were very faithful and very seldom missed a band practice, but no one was as faithful as Bert Spargo. He was so patient with us as we blundered through until he would let us play in public. Every member had a great admiration for Bert. Nowadays they would say we all loved him.

The band was a big undertaking for Bert Spargo, when one considers that none of us knew very much (if anything) about music, and he succeeded in making a reasonably good band out of a bunch of farm boys. All he ever got was a lot of respect, many headaches and, I'm sure, great satisfaction. It was a great experience for all of us, even just to get to know boys from other districts, as in those days our acquaintances were limited to fairly close to home. Districts became more than just names, and through the band years, many good friends and lasting friendship were made.

There were some members who joined for a short while but did not continue. Bert Spargo considered twenty-one a full band. When Bert decided (in the mid-thirties) not to lead the band any more, he said we could use the band hall as long as we needed it. However, without our leader it didn't last and we soon disbanded.

NOTE: In 1980 my grandson took my old saxophone, which came from band days, down at Robinsons Music Store to be fixed. Tommy Robinson looked surprised, and asked him where in the world did he get the horn. I had bought it fifty years before from Tommy. It still plays well!

## **Westlock School Band** **by Carol Renaud**

It will be "Expo or Bust" when Coachways chartered bus departs from Westlock on the evening of

August 10th at 7:30 p.m. carrying the Westlock High School Band to Montreal, Quebec, where they are scheduled to perform at "Expo 67."

On reservations made by the A.M.A. the bus will travel two days and one night going down and three days on the return trip.

The band will stay in the Daiters Motel in Tenore, Ontario on August 11, and the evening of August 12 will find them at the Bel Aire Motel in Sault St. Marie.

The destination, Montreal, will be reached on the night of August 13. In Montreal the band will be lodged at Jean de Brebeuf College on St. Catherine's Street.

On the morning of August 14, the band will perform their first concert in the Federal Pavilion in downtown Montreal. Officials are trying to arrange a tour of Montreal for that afternoon.

For the next three days, the Westlock High School Band will present two concerts a day at Expo. They will play in the bandshell located between the pavilions of Iran and Austria at 12:00 noon and 4:30 p.m. on August 15, 16 and 17. Then they will have two free days in Montreal before they begin the trip home on August 20. On that day it is hoped that the group will tour the parliament buildings in Ottawa. They will spend the night at the Clover Leaf Motel in Niagara Falls.

The next day will take them around the Great Lakes to Marathon, where they will stay in the Pic Motel.

The band is scheduled to spend a day and two nights in Regina on August 22 and 23. They will be lodged at the Sherwood House Motel. A tour of the Museum of Natural History is planned for the day with a possible tour of the R.C.M.P. barracks if time permits. Staff Sergeant Johnson and his wife are chaperoning the band on the trip. Also, if time permits, the group will return through Calgary with a brief stop-over in that city before pulling into Westlock late in the evening of August 14.

With such an interesting itinerary there should never be a dull moment on the "Band to Expo" trip.

Members of the Westlock High School Band who will be making the trip to Expo 67 include: David O'Shaughnessy, Jean Loree, Calvin Shaver, Bruce Buchanan, Bruce Johnson, Linda Tober, Margaret Ross, Connie Wiersma, David Schwanke, Janet Brown, Delaine Parsons, Andrew Hoblak, David Berezon, Lial Moulten, Adrian Roddick, Wayne Logan, Doug Miller, Doug Leriger, Wayne Forbes, Lorraine Sutherland, June Empson, Ted Platt, Arthur Baker, Fred Baker, Judy Lyons, Don Wynnchuk, Randy Poloway, Milton Sterling, Jerry Ward, Jim Scott, Nelson Scott, Catherine Baker, Barbara Hunt and Elaine Langille.

## The Westlock Municipal Library

As long as there have been people in the Westlock area there has been an interest in books. But it was not until after the Second World War that that interest grew into a desire to establish a library. A group had been meeting each week under the leadership of L. W. Kunelius to listen to and discuss topics which reached them through the radio program 'Farm Radio Forum'. Out of these discussions, came the idea of starting a community library. A working committee consisting of Mrs. J. Wagner, Mrs. M. McKeen and Miss R. Sterling, was to look into the possibility of forming a library and report back to the group.

When it seemed that it could be a reality, another committee was formed of Mrs. Anne Hide, Mrs. Bella Munsterman, Miss R. Sterling, L. W. Kunelius and W. Burchett, which functioned for a very long time. Donations of money and books came from citizens, the Ladies' Book Club, Duplicate Bridge Club, Home and School Association and many others.

The first library was located in 1945, in a small building, which had been the office of the B.A. bulk station and had been moved to a site on main street, between what had been the old Swallowhurst school and the present AGT building. Here Mrs. Anne Hide handed out books two or three days a week.

She and Mrs. Don Stanton were the book buying committee. Mrs. Hide's son, Larry, learned early to know books as he had to share his pram with the books that his mother took home to cover and catalogue. The first story hour was held in Mrs. Hide's living room.



Middle two books were compiled by the Westlock Old Timers. Outer two books were compiled by Westlock FWUA and won first prize for rural history books for the Province of Alberta in 1967. These were presented to the Westlock Public Library.

The library continued to operate out of this building for many years. In 1949 Mrs. Kemp opened a china and gift shop in the same building and operated the library as well. It was during this time that an-

other room was added to accommodate the library and when Mrs. Kemp gave up the store in 1951 Mrs. Grace Bentley took charge of the store and the library.

During this time that the library was operating, there had been a campaign going on to raise funds for an expanded library. It reached its goal when a new library was opened on October 20, 1957, in an old school building just west of the present post office, with Mrs. Grace Bentley in charge. An addition was built on the back of the building to house books belonging to the Westlock School Division. These were in charge of Mrs. Mae McDonald, and later of Mrs. Vera Hughes. When the Divisional Library moved into the new Municipal building in 1964, the community library occupied the back room also.

But it wasn't long before space was again a real concern. Bob Edgar, then chairman of the Board, and Mrs. Dorothy Woodman, secretary and member of the board for many years, had a dream of a more spacious and attractive library. This was fulfilled when the new town building was opened and room was provided for the library in the basement. The move to these new quarters was made in April of 1973, the official opening being April 18, 1973. An attractive and busy library operates there today.

But libraries are not just buildings and books. Many people are needed for operation of the library. Mrs. Grace Bentley labored long in the interest of the library and received only a small honorarium for her work, and when she left to take another job in 1958, she was followed by H. P. Raymont. He was given an increase in the honorarium as the library was kept open another day in the week.

It was at this time that a very dedicated group came to help out in the library; these were the volunteers, who have over the years saved the board much money and have added much to the library. These early volunteers were drawn largely from the Ladies' Book Club, the Home and School Association, and the Kinettes. The first convenor of operations was Mrs. Vera Hughes, followed by Mrs. M. Syens and Mrs. Rose Burchett.

The Volunteers helped Mr. Raymont at the desk, put cards in books, put books back on the shelves, prepared new books for circulation, bought new books, checked on overdue books. A committee under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Eppie Ponting dusted the shelves and books every week while the Kinettes mended books the last Monday of the month.

The annual meeting of 1964 noted that some 30 volunteers carried on the work of the operation of the library, not just when the library was open to the public, but also in mornings, afternoons and evenings, behind closed doors.



Looking back in records of the Operations Committee in the earliest days, it is noted some names, and their jobs. Mrs. D. Dumouchel and Mr. Stan Coates worked long hours on the card catalogues, typing cards for the file. Mrs. Nina Perrin read new books and wrote reviews for the newspaper; Mrs. E. Ross, Mrs. M. Pallister and Mrs. L. Wodlet helped in many ways in the operations; and some of the people who came in on a regular basis were: Mrs. Beth Cameron, Mrs. Marion Sutherland, Mrs. M. Leriger, Miss Ruth Pallister, Mrs. Don Stanton, Mrs. J. Merryweather, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Roy Brown, Mrs. M. Shaver, Miss Karen Stanton, and many more.

In the early 1960's the Board suggested that books might be donated to the library in memory of deceased people, so the Memorial Books were placed in the library. Mrs. D. Dumouchel and Mrs. N. Larson were in charge of these. The books chosen were non-fiction and great care was taken in the choosing of books, trying to reflect the interests of the person being remembered.

Some extensive memorials have been placed in the library over the years: National Geographic Magazines bound in volumes from 1958 to present time, in Memory of Miss Rita Sterling; Music books in Memory of Mr. H. P. Raymont; paintings and portrait in Memory of Mrs. Dorothy Woodman; Americana Encyclopedia and portrait in Memory of Mrs. Engler. These have been presented by the Board, family and friends of the deceased.

Over the years the library has had interested boards, people who aimed at making the library a success. Some of the people who were chairmen were: Dr. Sandy Gilchrist, Dr. Robert Little, Mrs. Dorothy Woodman, Mr. Robert Edgar, Mr. Robert McLennan, Mrs. Robert Mackenzie. Others on the executive have been Mr. M. Ukrainetz, Mr. Graham Clews, Mr. T. Bennie, Mr. W. Sharek and others.

Money has always been a problem for the Boards . . . there never seemed to be enough money. Money raised through memberships and fines would not have kept it operating. But in 1965 a change in the library from a community to a municipal library brought a change in the grant structure: a larger grant from the town. At the present time the library receives a grant from the town a provincial grant, and an occasional grant from the municipality. The town also gives the space for the library and pays the utilities. The Elks' Lodge gives the proceeds from its December Bingo. The Legion and the Westlock Thrift Shop have given large donations for buying books.

The Westlock Art Club has added to the attractiveness of the library by displaying their paintings

and by having sales of their work over the years. The Downstairs Gallery of Edmonton has brought out paintings for display and sale, and gave a painting of the old station to the library. Mrs. M. Syens donated a painting of Mr. Raymont to the library.

When Mrs. Rudy Engler took over the library in January 1967, it was decided to pay her for three days work. She was the first paid employee. It was a part time job as far as pay was concerned, but she and her staff put in many extra hours. The work went ahead rapidly; more books were purchased, with more emphasis on reference books. The library became a member of inter-library service, which gives this library access to other libraries. Talking books were introduced and large print books became part of the library. More volunteers came to work under Mrs. Engler's direction; namely, Gwen MacKenzie, Thelma Scott, Louise Schneider, Molly Renaud, Doris Hugh.

The Story Hour was again introduced with Joyce Greenfield in charge. It has continued to the present with various people in charge. Mrs. Engler remained librarian until May 1977. Following her have been Mrs. 'D' Gans, Mrs. Laural Chvojka, and the present librarian Mrs. Kathy Hathaway.

Over the years many organizations have helped with the work — Kinettes mended books, Guides and Rangers dusted shelves and books as did the Scouts. The Farm Women mended books when the Kinettes disbanded. The librarian's job is still part time. She is assisted by Mrs. Peggy Peacock and a high school student.

## **The Westlock School Band by Mary MacGregor**

The Westlock Band was organized in September 1959, by Ken Nixon, then principal of the Elementary School Twelve students practised that first year



Esther Loree with her Westlock School Band. Mrs. J. Hunter at far left.





Westlock High School Band with Gerry Bryant, Music Director.

at noontime. Jerry Bryant came from Denver, Colorado in the fall of 1960 for the purpose of teaching music in the area. He started with this nucleus of a band and built the program of music rapidly. Music was now offered as a credit in the High School and has continued to be so.

At the same time, 1960, Mary MacGregor came from the Barrhead school system where she had organized an Elementary school program of music. This program was now offered in the junior grades with the full cooperation of Mr. Nixon.

There was a music reading program and re-



The Westlock School Orchestra, 1941, ready for the Festival. Top row: David Bentley, Bruce Torrie, Grant Wagner, Harry Lane. Center: Les Seward, Bill Peter, Don Armstrong, Louise Leake, Esther Pritchard, Mabel Kirby, Lucille Thibault, Ella Zacek, Bill Shaver, Robert McKeen. Front: Alex Racine, Jack Armstrong, Barbara Ritz, Betty Hunter, Lorna Wood, Doris Miller, Jeanne Thibault, Hilda Barrett, Harry Marshall.



corders were used in Grades four, five and six so that all pupils who elected band in the Junior and Senior high school would be prepared for the music program of band. Choral work, rhythm instruments, listening to music, folk dancing and games set to music were the activities for the younger pupils. The band had now extended to one hundred and sixty pupils. Grades seven to nine enrolled in a feeder system which had its beginning at the grade six level.

There are so many varied activities engaged in by the Westlock school bands that it would be difficult to list them. There were trips to Edmonton to the television studios to make audio-video tapes for airing on Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver stations. Many were the band competitions in Wetaskiwin, Stettler, Edmonton, entered by Jerry Bryant and his groups.

Culmination of the activities was the trip to Montreal's Expo '67 where they had the honor to be invited and they played on three different days. The band played for the Provincial Government on the Legislative grounds shortly before going to Expo. There was a tour of several Calgary high schools and many concerts in our own Westlock school auditorium and at various schools in the Westlock School Division.

The elementary and junior high schools participated in many festivals within the school division where all pupils in all the schools had their days on the stage under the organization and leadership of Mary MacGregor and a band of devoted teachers interested in the music programs. Local school concerts were enjoyed by many parents and friends in each of the centers.

A thriving band program and music in all the schools is still carried on — a memento of these early days of development by Mr. Nixon, Mrs. MacGregor and Mr. Bryant.

## Town Band



Westlock Town Band.



Westlock Band, 1939.



Westlock Town Band in Jubilee Parade, 1935.

## Westlock School Music Festivals Kathleen MacLachlan

During the "dirty thirties" when money was at an all-time low, decades before the Television era, music, drama and elocution were matters of local school and church production. Music Festivals became important yearly events. Schools within certain specific areas competed in the various categories.

Mr. Cyril Clennet, a Westlock resident who had had previous organizational experience with festivals, was secretary, while Mr. Ewart Stutchbury, a talented musician, was president and musical adviser. From time to time, well-known drama teachers, such as Mrs. Elizabeth Sterling Haynes, from the University of Alberta, were invited to give instruction, and later, to adjudicate the productions of the competing schools. Usually festivals were held alternately in Westlock and Barrhead. Most schools in the surrounding areas presented entries in the various classes. The competition was keen. The awards were red, blue, and white strips of satin ribbon, homecrafted by the local committee.

Much of the time involved in preparing the contestants was done outside school hours — lest valuable time be taken from academic studies! Childrer in elementary and junior high were main participants, as those in higher grades had to write Depart

# Westlock Musical Festival



Open to Residents of  
Barrhead and Athabasca Inspectorates

WILL BE HELD AT

WESTLOCK, ALBERTA

On FRIDAY, MAY 10th

1935

under the auspices of the Westlock and District  
Musical Festival Association.

Entries must be in the hands of the Secretary not later than  
Saturday, April 20th, 1935.

Musical Festival at Westlock Friday, May 10, 1935.

## Fall Excitement

by Doris Felstad

The combines roar along the dried out swathes,  
Shouting defiance at the clouds that dare  
To come again and leave the dampened grain,  
Then scurry off without a thought or care.

Excitement fills the air around the land,  
The battle's on to garner in the grain.  
Man and machine rush forth to do their best  
To roll the harvest in before the rain.

The hungry ducks assemble in the air,  
Eyeing the luscious grain on golden fields;  
They drop like clouds upon defenceless swathes,  
And do their share to cut the good crop yield.

mental Examinations, and felt they could not spare time away from their academic programs to prepare for the Festival which in those times was considered a "frill".

The main classes for competition in elocution for each school grade, were poem or excerpts from great English poetry; in music, solos for each grade — usually by English composers; choral numbers at each grade level; and finally, in drama, a one-act play or a pageant. All these, chosen by the "committee" were in good taste and intended to enhance the culture of the school. Lucky was the teacher who had some pupils with excellent voices, or a flare for elocution! Lynn Brown began his musical career with his winning first award in the rendition of his solo, *Danny Boy*.

One dramatic offering which won a first award at a local Festival was *The Princess and the Woodcutter* presented by Kathleen Olsen's Grade VI and VII class. The cast consisted of: Art Lyons as King; Jean Gilchrist as Queen; Betty Hunter as the Princess; Bruce Torrie as the Woodcutter; Don Downing as First Suitor; Ray Clennet as Second Suitor; and Grant Wagner as Third Suitor — the last three all unsuccessful.

Hope keeps the farmer struggling to gain,  
With many strikes against him as he goes;  
But each truckload that rolls in to the bin  
Brings smiles, and helps to lessen all his woes.

The plows soon follow up to turn the ground;  
Prepare the seed bed early is the thing.  
The disks and harrows, fertilizers too,  
All do their part in readiness for spring.

And so the cycle goes along its way;  
From fall to spring, and then again to fall.  
Seed time, and the harvest shall not fail;  
This was His promise made unto us all.



## **Pembina**

**by Archie Hollingshead**

Down from the western mountains a little river  
flows,  
Its waters clear and sparkling, distilled from sterile  
snows.  
Down the pine-girt foothills the little river brawls,  
To slacken pace and loiter where the prairie  
woodland sprawls.  
And then to wander lazily by woods and meadows  
green,  
Through such a lovely countryside as man has  
seldom seen.  
This is the land I've travelled around the world to  
find,  
Fashioned and planned by Nature on a day when  
she was kind.

Stored with treasure and beauty, and wealth more  
precious than gold,  
This rich black soil from the forest, more than a  
million years old.  
This is the land that was promised, that Moses  
dreamed of in vain,  
Far from the land of Canaan, here on Alberta's  
plain.  
Here where the noble Redskin named it his hunting  
ground  
And hoped in the life immortal his final home  
would be found.  
Blue wood smoke from the teepee; meat for his  
papoose and squaw;  
Tinnikinnisk for his peace pipe, by the winding  
Pem-bi-na.

## **Winter Lost.**

These tall grasses, brown, rustling;  
Fallen leaves; wet from  
night frost;  
Carpet the mossy path, into  
the leafless brush.  
I won't see this grass,  
Again; until it is green,  
and high;  
I won't be here, when snow,  
fills this path.  
I'll have to miss the  
Trees, standing in drifts;  
piled high;  
I wish I could be here;  
when winter comes.

**Published** — Westlock News, March 1982.

Award winning poem in *The Poet* Fall edition 1982

Mishawaka, Indiana U.S.A.

Copyright © Re-published with author's permission.

# Education and Schools

## History of Industrial Arts at Westlock High School

In 1950 local carpenters built a one room general activity lab. It was a frame building and had a full length mezzanine for material and project storage. Building construction (carpentry) and general woods was taught by Mr. Gordon Rancier. He was followed by Mr. Williams, and in 1955 Mr. Walter Sharek taught drafting and woodwork. In 1956 Mr. Martin Berezanski arrived and introduced electricity and sheetmetal as well as drafting and wood in what was called a general program. He taught both junior high and high school students in this lab until 1961.

Then the original lab was torn down and a new two teacher lab was constructed on the south east side of the present industrial wing. One lab was for woodwork, sheetmetal and the second lab was an automotives and welding facility. The first teachers in the automotives welding area was Mr. Bill Machlin (1962) and later Mr. Oscar Eritsland, followed by Mr. Steve Onyschuck in 1963.

In 1965 Mr. Don Hengel took over the woods-sheetmetal lab when Mr. Berezanski went to Calgary. He found that the grass was no greener there and returned to W.H.S. in 1966 when a new lab for electricity was created in a portable building. He also taught lapidary.

In 1971 the Industrial Education department was expanded to a four teacher-four lab facility by building two more labs — a new lab for printing and photography and a new woods lab. The first teacher being Mr. Ed. Whitehead (who remained in the department up to Easter of 1982) and D. Hengel moved into the new woods-plastics facility.

Don Hengel was made Department Head in 1971 with the expansion of the industrial education lab facilities.

Mr. Stan Sparshu replaced S. Onyschuck in 1973 and revised the metals program to include welding, machine shop, sheetmetal and power. He taught both junior high and high school students.

In 1975 Mr. Joe Kennedy was hired to teach

Industrial Arts in the Junior high program. He taught woods, ceramics, and sheet metal.

In 1978 Mr. Don Nyznyk was hired to teach junior high classes. He taught electricity, graphics, plastics and lapidary.

This brought the department up to six teachers and six labs with a wide variety of industrial and "world of work" simulations offered;

— 2 junior high labs — Mr. Kennedy — wood, metal, photography and ceramics/earths; Mr. Nyznyk — electricity, graphics, plastics and lapidary.

— 4 high school labs — Mr. Berezanski — electricity, drafting; Mr. Hengel — woods, plastics; Mr. Sparshu — metals, welding, power; Mr. Whitehead — graphics, photography.

In 1980 Don Hengel was designated Co-ordinator of the junior high school Industrial Education and Home Economics programs in addition to department head in the high school program.

## Good Old Golden School Days . . .

### 1921-23:

submitted by: A. A. Aldridge

In 1921 Westlock was a part of the Westlock Consolidated School District. The other member part was Hazel Bluff School District from which most of the rural pupils originated. There was one bus of uncertain vintage and even more uncertain habits though I will say it did not let us down too often. In winter with uncertain roads and little in the way of snow plough there were days when the school population was somewhat small.

The school consisted of three classrooms, each in a separate building. The high school grades were housed in a relatively new building, designed as a residence for the Principal. However, Fred Lynn, the Principal of those days was unmarried at that time. Grades five to eight were my responsibility and we occupied a building, formerly a rural school. It was located across the grounds, facing the high school room. The primary grades (one to four) were accom-





Good Old School Days, Pibroch.

modated in another ex-rural school on Main Street, about 100 yards from the other two. Mr. Lynn and I shared the work of the high school grades, in that I attempted to teach Chemistry, History and English in addition to the work of my four grades. Somehow we muddled through. Some of the people who took Chemistry at that time will remember an explosion that occurred at the back of the classroom which we used as a makeshift Lab. I had made the mistake in setting up the experiment of not having the inlet thistle tube creating more pressure than the flask could stand. The explosion did little more damage than to spray the liquid over the suit I was wearing. Smocks were unheard of in those days. Suits were also hard to come by.

Our school inspectors of those days were men of substance and power. They exercised a good deal of authority and had much influence upon a teacher's fate and his career. Fortunately, we had two fine men with understanding and appreciation of the problems one was facing in these multi-grade classrooms. The Inspector of Schools for Athabasca inspectorate in these days was R. J. Grant who had recently returned from the First World War and who had previously taught in Wetaskiwin at the time my father was the Methodist minister there. I was also visited for examination of my efforts in teaching high school subjects by G. A. McKee, High School Inspector . . . a position important enough to put dire forebodings in the heart of any beginning teacher. However, he had been my high school principal at Strathcona High and had taught me Latin. He and I hit it off rather well.

The Chairman of the Board was Archie Brown of Hazel Bluff, genuinely interested in education and helpful to us in any way that he could be. His son Russell was in my room. Fred Lynn and I stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Shutt. He was Secretary-Treasurer and an excellent one, meticulous in detail, and precise in all his work. The Shutt's were from England, an asset to both the school and the community. Unfortunately, their home caught fire early one morning in the spring of the year, and was destroyed. They lost everything they had, as did Fred and I. We made do in temporary accommodation until the end of the school year. In my second year I



Primary class near the "Tin School" 1921-1922.

stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Dios Smith, and one could not ask for a nicer place to live. I felt like one of the family.

The primary room was taught by a Miss Jones the first year, with her sister succeeding her in the second year. The second Miss Jones married Gordon Pierce, a local hardware merchant. Their daughter, Catherine Ford, became well known in Edmonton education as a trustee and later Chairman of the Edmonton Public School Board. Their son is a well known medical doctor in Calgary.

The students of those days were an interesting and able group of people. May I bring some of them to mind for you? Two brothers Henry and Martin Wener, were great organizers, and always seemed to have some kind of sports activity underway. They were ably assisted by Russell Steele, Art Griswold, Buzz Geddes, Nelson Letts to name but a few. The competition was directed mainly to Clyde where my brother Hardy was Principal. His second teacher was Dave Turner, one of my high school friends and Normal school compatriot. He was later a high school teacher in New Westminster and Victoria. He eventually became Deputy Minister of Recreation in the B.C. Government. Dave was an excellent soccer player, and was named Canada's Soccer Player of the Half Century in 1950, as a member of the New Westminster Royals. I suppose it was only natural, right and proper, that Hardy and Dave would do their best to have their teams beat us in both basketball and baseball. It was good rivalry and good fun.

I have fond memories of those days, particularly of the young people whom we met in school. As well as those mentioned earlier I can think of Mary Wightman (later McGregor), Dorothy Letts, Joanne Roch (later St. John), Russell Bowen, Betty Bowen, Eleanor Griswold, and many others. In an account of this kind it is a mistake to name names because many people are going to be overlooked. Lack of space may be used as an excuse. I should attribute my omissions to lack of memory. After all, it is 61 years since I arrived as a 19-year old, relatively inexperienced teacher.

Westlock was a good town, with fine people who were interested in making it an even better town. Community spirit was high. Sports played an important part in its activities. We had baseball, hockey, basketball, tennis, field days and track meets. One of the most significant events was the Annual School Fair in which all the schools in the area sent in exhibits prepared by their students. Samples of school work in Art and Drawing, Penmanship (strange word these days), Sewing, knitting and map work were on display, with ribbons awarded to the winners . . . no money prizes. Competition was very

keen, and sometimes used as an indication of how well the teacher was doing. The Department of Extension, under A. E. Ottewell, assisted in the organizing of the Fair, though local teachers did most of the spade work in gathering exhibits, displaying them, and attaching judges' ribbons to the winners. The Exhibition Building on the Fair Grounds (which served in the winter as our hockey rink was the display centre for the Fair, and was filled with exhibits. Prize calves and colts were shown outside. On Fair Day, parents and students for miles around were on hand to view the exhibits, and take part in the sports events. It was a lot of work but filled a need in those days. The second year I acted as Secretary, and that was really a heavy job, not only in preparing the introductory work but also the final reports and summaries.

We had a good hockey team both years, with players like Don Stanton, Bo St. John, Louis Normandeau, Joe Dusseault, and others. They let me play also. Most of our games were against Edmonton teams, and some really good battles resulted. The Exhibition Building was short, and players with shots like Joe's could drill one from our defence line that would almost tear out the back of the goal net.

It was necessary to develop your own activities and amusements. In the Methodist Church our Minister one year was Rev. Mr. Reed, who was keenly interested in literary activities such as Debating, Lantern Slide Shows, etc. I participated in one debate with Bob Jorgenson as my opponent. The topic was: "Resolved that the Consolidated School District is a Success". I wrote to the Department of Extension for material, and Bob probably did the same thing because our material was virtually the same thing, from opposite sides of the question. The result was a tie.

May I say in conclusion, that the two years I spent in Westlock School were both happy and fruitful. It was a period of apprenticeship for me; I hope the students did not suffer too much. Thank-you!

## **History of Westlock High School Home Economics**

**by Jean S. Smith**

The first Home Economics room in the Westlock Junior-Senior High School was opened in the basement of the new building in 1951. This room is now the present Biology Lab. Chris Cousins was the first Home Economics teacher in 1951-1953. Some junior high students attended home-ec classes. I arrived in 1953 and at that time General Home Economics was compulsory for girls in Grades 9 and 10. I recall that I had students bussed in from the Dapp, Pibroch and



Sunniebend areas but not from all the outlying areas such as Fawcett. Linaria was, at that time, in the Barrhead Division.

I arrived in August, 1953, at the time of the serious polio epidemic. I might also say that it had rained cats and dogs before, and the day, I planned to come. The section of hard-top from Clyde Corner to Westlock was being topped. The bus driver had been over the detour before and refused to go again. He took us all the way back to Edmonton, after coffee at Clyde Corner. I was Alberta born and raised but had spent considerable time as a dietician in Eastern Canada. My knowledge of north of Edmonton was limited and I was unaware of what or where I was headed for. I started out again from Edmonton Dunvegan yards at 8:30 a.m. the next morning on a mixed freight for another "go" at Westlock. It took until noon to arrive but the train crew were delighted to have one passenger on the colony car at the back. They promised to bake me a pie if I would return to Edmonton the next day at noon with them. I forewent this pleasure, chanced the Westlock Hotel and returned the next day by the regular passenger train.

Mr. Burchett, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Westlock School Division, at that time was most kind in helping me to find accommodation at Bob Brooks. School opening was delayed that year and I was able to return to Calgary to gather my belongings together and return to Westlock to organize myself for a first teaching job. It was quite an experience to change from quantity recipes of 100 food servings for cafeterias to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of four servings for girls to try a hand at cooking. Sewing I had upgraded, teaching adults at MacDonald College. The students were great to me. The Home Economics Room was the coffee room for teaching staff in those days and we were a small friendly crew. They benefitted from the leftovers and even made me produce fresh water from the well in the school yard for coffee. The town tap water was quite high in soda.

Another teacher in the area, Mrs. Blades, Bob Brooks' mother-in-law, promoted a Linaria bachelor in the area and by spring I was engaged to marry Les Smith. Westlock had a fair number of young single working people at that time and since the two Health Unit nurses were in that category and had a complete house as well, we did have some good times. I moved on to the Smith farm at Linaria in 1954 and ended my teaching days until 1971, when my four children Kathryn, Lusyl, Lila and James were in school. However, every time a home-ec. teacher was unobtainable the superintendent would arrive at my door — once in Linaria when I was four or five months pregnant and again in 1963 when James was two and Lila one. This time I reneged. We had moved closer

to Westlock, buying the Carmen Breadner farm between Clyde and Westlock in 1961.

I talked Joyce Greenfield into helping me for one year. She really had the teaching certificate and I was her assistant on a letter of authority. Joyce's children were very small as well so after one year, 1963-64, of mornings for me and three afternoons for her, we decided to retire again. I had been fortunate in having Mrs. Hugh Fraser, one of the bus drivers' wives from Clyde, babysit for me. Mr. Fraser would bring her on the bus, pick up my children for school and I would take her home. She said her sacrifice meant that Ruth, her daughter, would get to come to Westlock with Grade 9's from Clyde for Home Economics. The alternative was to drop the programme. My, we were popular in those days!

In 1954 I was replaced by Lillian Morais until 1956 when Dorothy Wallace (later Wichert) arrived and stayed until 1958. She was followed by Phyllis Jorgenson in 1958-1959. Ruth Whaley was here during the 1959-1960 school year. Ruth tells me Marianne Doherty was one of her students at that time. Marianne did practise teaching with Joyce and I in 1964 and went on to her Doctorate in Family Studies at the University of Alberta and is a professor in the Home Economics Faculty in Edmonton at the present time.

Ruth was followed by Verna Lefebvre in 1960-1961. Both of these Home Economics teachers were much involved with development of Home Ec. curriculum in the province in later years.

Martha Munz arrived in 1961 and was responsible for designing the new Home Economics Room in the new addition to the high school, east of the Elementary Gymnasium. I always appreciated Martha's planning as it was an attractive and innovative line in kitchen design executed by Dregers Kitchen Corner. The metal cupboards were like iron. Many teachers who followed didn't like the open line kitchen design rather than the "U" but it did make a great use of space, made supervision easier and enabled us to pack in many more students in Food Science in later years. Joyce Greenfield and I were happy to have such a large, bright and efficient new room in 1963-64 when Martha moved to Medicine Hat. We were replaced by Joan Hubbard in 1964-65.

Barbara Rekemawich arrived in 1965 and stayed until 1968 when we both turned up at the University in Home Economics Education to finish up our educational qualifications — Barbara a B. Ed in Home Ec. and I a Professional Teaching Certificate after a degree of B. Sc. in Household Economics. I had decided that my children were able to manage a part-time mother and full-time father while I needed to augment the farm income. I was grateful to obtain a

\$300 bursary from the Westlock School Division to enable me to drive to Edmonton each day and obtain my certificate. Teachers were becoming highly qualified in their fields and there were no more letters of authority and delaying certification.

Feleca Taylor replaced Barbara in 1968. The Home Economics program was changing again. It had become more specialized in Food Science, Clothing and Textiles and was heading into Modern Family Living rather than General Homemaking. Junior High Students still received some of each topic for choice making in High School. Boys were arriving on the scene in increasing numbers, particularly for the food courses. The female liberation movement had begun, along with increasing technological changes of automatic washers, dryers, instant foods, two income families, sometimes father had to cook as well as babysit! Also, students were always hungry after long bus rides from all directions north, east, west and south of Westlock.

Mrs. Taylor was joined by Lorraine Hamaluk in 1970 and 1971 and the large Home Economics Room had a wall placed between the foods and clothing and textiles areas. Mrs. Hamaluk taught mainly Food Science and English classes, and when she left in 1971, Dick Staples extended an invitation to me to return to Westlock. I had been driving to St. Albert, where I had been teaching Junior High Home Economics for two years.

Mrs. Taylor and I shared the Home Ec. Room until 1973 when Janet Nordstrom took over her position for a year. I stayed until 1979. Janet was replaced by Suki Panesar in 1974 and Gloria Good in 1976-1978. At this time we were able to expand into the Drafting Room below and Gloria was able to have her own Clothing and Textiles Room. This was a great improvement as my foods classes had become overloaded and noisy I suspect.

Sue McGregor came to help me in 1978 and we also got some help with Junior High classes from the Arts teacher, Diane Dannard. The facilities were now rarely empty, so with Mr. Balanik's help and the availability of grants we began to plan for another Food Science area in the main high school building. The Home Economics supervisor Laura Mann came from Edmonton to explore possibilities. Modern Living courses had begun and as three teachers sharing the Food Science lab area and having theory classes in main school classrooms, the running between became exhausting. The Junior High program had become fully developed again and two male teachers were handling all the boys. I was teaching Modern Living and Food Science 10 and 20. Sue had a mixture of Clothing and Textiles 10 and 20, Food Science 20 and Junior High Clothing. Diane took

Junior High Foods along with Art but we needed her more and more. She became a full-time Junior High Home Economics teacher in 1979. I decided new younger groups needed to plan the new facilities they would work in and I would retire. It wasn't the days of the teacher shortage any more. I was weary, my last child in grade twelve, the second to begin her teaching career — a time for change.

Mary J. Baier replaced me in 1979 and Sue McGregor was replaced by Peggy Huston. Sue is now working on a masters degree in Clothing and Textiles and the Home Ec. curriculum is changing again.

The teachers for the last two years, 1981-1983 have been Diane Dannard, June Feniuk and Marlene Magnusson. The new Food Science facility (opposite the Boy's Gym) in the addition to the high school is a great new facility. I am happy to say Food Science and Modern Living has continued to grow. Unfortunately, the same is not true for Clothing and Textiles.

It was a privilege for a few years to have taught every girl in the Westlock School Division for at least one year in Junior High and more and more boys than girls in Senior High in later years. No wonder I can't remember all their names when I see them. We all had great learning experiences and I hope all these young men and women are still doing creative cooking and entertaining!

## **Westlock Local History**

### **Westlock High School — Physical Education**

#### **A. General**

When I arrived in Westlock in 1956, the first gymnasium was just being completed. This structure was to be known later as the "old gym," since in the ensuing 25 years there have been a total of six gyms built in the town. The dates of construction are:

- 1956 — W.H.S. Old Gym
- 1963 — Elementary Gym
- 1964 — St. Mary Old Gym
- 1969 — Westlock Junior High Gym
- 1971 - W.H.S. New Gym
- 1982 — St. Mary New Gym

In addition, we now have a number of other sporting facilities including an arena, a swimming pool, a six-sheet curling rink, a nine-hole grassgreen golf course, tennis courts, as well as excellent downhill and cross-country skiing areas. The students of the district use all of these facilities as part of a much expanded physical education program.

Physical education has three levels of activities: the instructional program, house leagues, and inter-school teams. The first two levels involve a broad



# Westlock School District #3208

F. WOOD						
W. HALSTEAD 08	H. REEVES 08		GROSS	R. BEATT 06	J. CASKINETT 03	
W. MCDONALD	G. L. PLATT	W. L. PLATT	FORD	J. WORONIUK	D. WORONIUK	J. CAMPBELL
C. KREKLAU	P. NADEAU	R. BRUDER	BAGNELL BROS.	H. VOLZKE	J. TYMKOW	J. ARTS
			J. SCOTT	J. TYMKOW		
		J. H. BEATT 06	S. BEATT 06		W. BETSON	J. WHITESTEIN 03
	C. WIST	G. BIDNE	R. LANE	M. LANE	G. BEACH	BAGNELL BROS.
	P. NADEAU	W. KALLAL	VICTOOR	L. TYMKOW	A. GOLDNICK	D. WOLF
		G. KALLAL				
	W. MCDONALD	J. J. FIFE 03	A. MCGREGOR 05			J. GIBSON 05
	W. J. KALLAL	J. ROY	SEWARD	W. BETSON	W. BETSON	P. STEFFES
	E. KALLAL	L. LOREE	G. BEACH	G. BEACH	G. BEACH	W. LEWKO
		W. KALLAL	G. KALLAL	A. GOLDNICK	A. GOLDNICK	
	M. MCGREGOR 07			M. ALTON 05	TOM JACK 03	
	J. WAGNER	DR. WHISELL		TOWN	E. BERWALD	F. STEFFES
	R. BRUDER		R. ZURFLUH		TOWN	JONK
	R. KING 03			J. W. SHUTT 02	G. LAMBERT 02	
	G. SUTHERLAND	W. LOCKHART	F. WESTGATE		DIEFFENBAUGH 08	F. STEFFES
			WESTLOCK SR HIGH	A. GOLDNICK		JONK
			WESTLOCK ELEM.	TOWN		
	L. ARMITAGE	A. JOHNSON 03	P. MCEACHERAN	L. H. PETTIT	L. H. PETTIT	H. LAMBERT 03
		W. SMITH	D. C. SMITH	A. MARKS	A. MARKS	P. STEFFES
		TOWN	TOWN	TOWN	E. MARKS	F. LEWKO
	J. ELLIOTT	A. SAWATSKY	G. BERRY 05	A. MARKS	A. MARKS	T. H. BURT 03
			D. C. SMITH	E. MARKS	M. MARKS	E. RENKE
			M. SMITH			A. BERWALD
	A. MURRAY 03			O. TAYLOR 06	W. WALSH 03	
	A. SAWATSKY	CROWN LAND	CROWN LAND	J. MCINNES	J. WODELET	P. ALISH
		SOUTHVIEW WESTLOCK	L. HODGE	E. HIRT	B. WIEGAND	A. BERWALD
	J. MURRAY 03		N. MCINNES	D. MCGREGOR 03	A. MEYERS 03	
	A. SAWATSKY			T. NUNN 07	P. LANNOVETTE 08	S. MELNYK
				M. LEFEBVRE	M. LEFEBVRE	JONK
				D. WALLACE	D. WALLACE	

cross section of the student population with Physical Education 10 being a required course, while the other courses are optional. However, it is the inter-school team level that receives the greatest amount of public attention and of which the best records are kept, thus making it convenient for outlining the historical development of a sports program. Therefore, this section of the Westlock High School history will be developed around the inter-school sports activities.

At the high school level, inter-school sports are organized and controlled by the Alberta Schools Athletic Association which was founded in 1956. The first interscholastic activity sponsored by the ASAA was basketball, and has since expanded to include volleyball, track and field, cross-country running, football, soccer, badminton, gymnastics, wrestling, and curling. Westlock High School has competed in all of these sports over the years, being a part of many North Central zone championship teams over the years as well as claiming our share of individual laurels. However, we have not yet been able to "win it all" in any of the major team games such as basketball or volleyball at the provincial level. No doubt at some future time our efforts will be rewarded. In the meantime, and always, we must be reminded that it is "the joy of effort" that counts.

The quality of graduate of any school depends upon the human factor much more than the facilities. The cooperation of the community, parents, teachers and students is required to produce a good school. Following is a list of the teachers that have worked in the physical education department of W.H.S. over the past 25 or so years:

### Physical Education Teachers From the Past 25 Years

Teacher	Years Taught
Clarence Truckey	1956-1979
Marjorie Cobban	1957-1958
Hazel Barr	1958-1961
Shirley Rogers	1961-1962
Carol Sterling	1962-1963
Hazel Barr	1963-1964
Sharon Stephens	1964-1965
Fred Schoenrock	1964-1967
Chuck Keller	1965-1970
John Popko	1967 to the present
Jasbir Mangat	1970-1974
Dave Maxwell	1971-1980
Bryon Rakoz	1974-1980
Marnie Elliott (nee Wilson)	1979 to the present

With outstanding exceptions it is impossible to list all of the students that have been a part of the inter-school program. For a complete record, the yearbooks of Westlock High School are the best source. Perhaps the most notably exceptional list is the following taken from the last several yearbooks.

These are the students chosen by the Physical Education staff as being the most outstanding athletes in the school, considering ability, effort, sportsmanship and achievement.

### Outstanding Athletes

Year	Male	Female
1971-1972	Leon Spila	Honey Dirks
1972-1973	Daryl Lynes	Dorothy Paquette
1973-1974	Dan Kipp	Dorothy Paquette
1974-1975	Rick Mueller	Janet Smith
1975-1976	Dennis Balon	
	Ross Lyons	Valerie Smart
		Vivan Coles
1976-1977	Stan Lubchynski	Wendy Rollings
1977-1978	Randy Schreiner	Joan Pearce
1978-1979	Rick Chalaturnyk	Shauna Thompson
1979-1980	Hal Marcellin	Darcy Henkel
1980-1981	Brad Andres	Pam Morie
1981-1982	Tom Kohlruss	Wendy Brown

### B. Specific Sports

The following outline of the development of specific sports activities at W.H.S. will serve to show how the physical education program has grown over the past 26 years.

Basketball was played in Westlock long before there were any gymnasiums as such. Outdoor courts were first used, then the Memorial Hall starting in the early 1950's. Although local leagues had been organized by teachers, the first provincial championships were held in 1956, the same year our first gymnasium was constructed in Westlock. Following this, W.H.S. became a member of the North Central zone for athletics of which basketball was an important sport. We have participated over the years with varying degrees of success.

Football started at WHS in 1958 and grew out of a bantam team that played in the community prior to that time. However, the first league was organized in 1961 and included Barrhead, Jasper Place, Concordia College, St. Anthony's College, St. Jean College, and for one season, Greisbach military base. For a majority of the six years of operation, Westlock was a power in the league, winning the championship on several occasions. There was tremendous enthusiasm for the sport as shown by the large crowds that attended Saturday games. Mr. C. Truckey was head coach for five years with Mr. C. Keller taking over the reins during the final season of 1966.

The sport of soccer has been played in school since the early days, no doubt due to its inexpensive nature as well as because it can be played on any open space with practically any number of players. Despite this fact, and its worldwide popularity, soccer has never really "caught on" as an inter-school sport in Alberta. However, Westlock has had boys and girls teams since 1970 competing against neighboring schools such as Barrhead and St. Albert.



Volleyball was introduced to the program in 1961 and has grown steadily in participation and competitive level over the years until it now vies with basketball as the most popular sport at the high school level. Mr. Popko raised the level of this sport throughout the years that he coached the boys teams, whereas the girls reached a very high level of play under the coaching of Mr. Rakoz during the mid-1970's.

Track and field competition has been a part of school programs since pioneer days, usually making up the major portion of spring sports days while several schools in a district got together. The first organized track meet at the high school level was held in 1958 at Westlock with Barrhead providing the opposition. The next year, the competitions were started at the North Central level with Westlock hosting the first meet. Over the years, a number of Westlock athletes have competed at the provincial level many having won events. Records were set by Elizabeth Kostiw in the discus throw, Maxine Langille in the 60 yard dash and Jim Hale in the long jump.

Cross-country running was started in 1964 with a meet held at the Westlock Golf Course. Athabasca won the trophy donated for North Central competition by the Associate Medical Clinic. Westlock has participated with varying degrees of success since that time.

The sport of badminton in the Westlock district probably started in the barn loft at the Felstad farm west of Dapp. Martin coached his sons Barry, Don and David, who brought their skills to the Westlock High School when they began attending here in 1960. The Felstad boys, along with many others represented our school well over the years, winning several zone championships and emerging as class champions in provincial tournaments. The sport continues to be very popular at W.H.S. as well as in the community. Meanwhile, the old barn loft at the Felstad farm has been replaced with a specially-built badminton gym with conditions on a par with the best in the province.

Tumbling and pyramid building have been a part of school sports as long as there have been physical education programs. At first they were done outdoors on the grass or mats with the only apparatus being other human bodies or perhaps a Swedish boxhorse. However, as better indoor facilities were constructed, the inclusion of more apparatus was made possible. The first high school competitions were held in 1970 in Alberta. W.H.S. has co-operated with community groups to develop the sport which today is experiencing widespread participation throughout the district.

Wrestling began as an inter-school sport in 1972, although it had been included in the physical educa-

tion program before that, mainly through the efforts of Mr. Popko. The sport, not to be confused with the variation seen on television, is one of the most demanding. Our athletes have participated with varying success up to provincial level over the years.

Curling has traditionally been an intramural sport in the high school program. However, it was included in the provincial interscholastics schedule in 1977. W.H.S. has found this activity to its liking, participating each year, and finally winning the "A" section provincial championship in 1982. Members of this team which was coached by Mr. B. Keller and Mr. J. Sterling were:

Lead — Rob Smith

2nd — Dale Armstrong

3rd — Brad Latawiec

Skip — Marvin Tkachuk

This completes a short history of sport at the Westlock High School, on a winning note! May there be many more such victories in the future, but above all, let us not forget that "it is not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game," that really matters.

C. Truckey

P.S. I would like to acknowledge the co-operation extended to me by Mr. Dave Maxwell, assistant-principal of the Westlock High School. Much of the information about recent activities he was kind enough to look up.

## **A One Room School, The Way I Remember It**

by Carol Sinclair

In February, 1948, I celebrated my 6th birthday and because I received a square, pale pink lunch box with 2 handles from my brother Jack and a tin box beautifully decorated that was full of wax crayons from brother Don; I felt I was all set to go to school.

After much pleading, on my part, my brothers told the teacher how much I wanted to go to school and so every Friday for the month of June, she let me attend. At 11:30 a.m. I trotted down through the ditch the ½ mile to Edison School with my pink lunch bucket and box of crayons clutched in my hands to eat lunch sitting between my cousin June and her friend Rosalie Schekney. I listened to the teacher read a story, colored some pictures, and then; gathering my possessions, strolled happily back home again. Mrs. MacGregor, who had beautiful auburn hair and freckles, was gentle and kind to me. I adored her. This was my first experience in the same one room school my own mother had attended and I will always appreciate Mrs. MacGregor's willingness to accommodate an eager young girl.

The following September I officially set off to



A one room school.

school and I loved Miss Rose who I thought was as beautiful as her name. Edward Jendrick and I were the only children in Grade One and I was so excited when she brought in a picture of an apple with the letter "A" under it. Next day she brought a picture of a ball-letter "B" and then a cat-"C", etc. Miss Rose, I believe, was a first year teacher and I marvel at the effort she must have put in. There were 32 children in the school — Grade one to Grade Eight — and yet she seemed to give Edward and me so much attention. I can imagine her working every evening to prepare for those eight grades and yet finding time to teach us our A, B, C,'s with what I thought were fascinating pictures. Oh what pleasure I had in learning to read from those primers. Stories such as:

"Oh! Oh! Oh!

Look, Dick, Look,

Look, Jane, Look.

See Sally run."

See Spot run." were wonderful because you could read them. Poor Edward was as anxious to go outside to play as I was to learn to read, so she must have had her problems with the two of us.

Edison School had a cloakroom as you came in the door where you put your coats, boots, and lunch pails. The floor was spruce 4 × 4's and by the time I attended, it had mellowed to a deep chocolate brown and dipped and dived in many spots. It was dotted all over with drops of ink and had a sweet smell of the green dustbane that was used to keep the dust down as you swept the floor. There were 4 long, narrow windows along each side wall, a huge blackboard along the front, and an old wheezie organ in the front corner. The double desks were attached to heavy iron stands and of three different sizes, little ones at the front. You lifted the desk top to get at your books and the boys especially enjoyed lifting the lid so their books and papers could crash to the floor.

The big, old crock stood on a table and you used a dipper to get a drink. One of the rules was that if you took a dipper full of water you were supposed to drink



Sunny Bank High School pupils, 1942-1943. L to R: Delhia Campbell, Barry Stanley, Caroline Lyons, Mary Millar, Janet MacDougall, Annie Haywood, Beth Morris, Carol Parsons, Cathy Forbes, Mary Grasby, Zeffie Clessen, Jim Letts, Dorothy Letts, Cyril Anderson, Pete Podolski. Teacher Mr. Renwick. Sitting, L to R: Allan Short, Harper McCrae, Jack Parsons, Orly Campbell and Archie Millar.

the whole thing and not pour some back. This way you didn't give as many germs to other pupils. We didn't always obey this rule.

The big old potbellied stove sat in the back corner and in the winter those closest to it roasted while the ones in the other corner froze. The sun shone in the windows that were too high to see out of when you were sitting in your desks, and on hot days while you tried to work, you could hear the birds chirping outside and would enjoy the distraction if a bee or a fly would buzz in through the open windows.

We ate our lunches at our desks and I can still smell the sardine and onion sandwiches some students enjoyed. Many children carried lard pails so I thought I was special with my pink, tin one. Fruit was expensive so few of us enjoyed that luxury. One of my ambitions was to have the opportunity of eating one whole banana or apple to myself so I wouldn't have to eat only half of one. The cut end was always brown by the time you ate it. One winter the teacher got a hot plate and we would heat up soup. Oh how good it tasted on a cold winter day.

The schoolyard had a grove of white poplars we climbed and a small stable for the lucky ones who rode their horses or ponies. We spent many happy times playing in the loft or petting the animals. There were two out-houses-one for the girls and one for the boys. The boys favorite pastime was chasing the girls so we would run into the outhouse. On one occasion one of the boys threw a rock when Rosalie had decided it was safe to come out and she received a big cut on her forehead. That game was banned for some time after that.



Recess was a special time for us as, being farm children, we loved the opportunity to play with others. There was no playground equipment but we were very capable at making our own fun. In the summer we all played ball with an old bat, one ball, no gloves, and old boards for bases. The girls made playhouses in the bushes and the boys played tag and had sword fights. "Kick the Can", "Pom, Pom, Pull Away", and "King of the Castle", were favorite games. During the winter we played "Fox and Geese", and made snowforts. Snowballs weren't banned at a one room school. We had a big iron gate at the school and I remember one winter the teacher warning us not to put our tongues on the gate. It had never entered our minds before she mentioned it so three of us little ones proceeded to run right out at recess to learn our lesson the hard way. The teacher never supervised our recess so we fought our own battles and had fun.

We had two part German Shepherd Dogs, Lassie and Pinkie. Brothers Jack and Don built a small bobsled and painted it red. They bought harness with bells on it. All winter the dogs pulled us to school and then would be sent home. At 3:15 p.m. they would be sitting at the end of our lane, waiting for Jack to shake the harness so the bells would ring. Down the ¼ mile they would race, to be harnessed up and bring us home. We were the envy of the whole school.

A teacher today has to fill out a form in triplicate if she wishes to go on a field trip. It must be of definite educational value and pupils must be well prepared ahead of time. The form must be sent to County Office 6 days in advance to be approved. She must also request permission slips from the parents. I remember vividly the three field trips we went on while I attended Edison School. An Oil Company was drilling unsuccessfully for oil about 3 miles south of the school so one lovely day we all walked down to see the oil well. It was a wonderful experience and the teacher went to the library and got some books on the subject. The whole school drew pictures of the well and wrote reports about oil drilling.

Another day we walked 4 miles north to Poplar Knoll School for a baseball game. Even the little kids played but I remember best that Mr. Noel, who was the teacher at Poplar Knoll, had only one arm. He would clutch the bat under his stub, throw up the ball with his good hand, and hit pop flies to his students, never missing once. We thought he was marvellous and they won the game.

One afternoon before Christmas, we went again to Poplar Knoll in sleighs behind horses, to attend their Concert. I remember especially one very beautiful girl with long black hair who was dressed in blue and played the part of Mary. Those were field trips at

Edison and no forms or permission slips had been filled out.

There were different jobs for all the children and some were a special privilege. The favorite jobs for the little ones was to be allowed to ring the bell. You had to hold on to the clanger and go out on the top step. When you swung the bell back and forth as hard as you could, what power you felt as you saw the other students, stop, look up, and then run to the school.

Another job was to mix the ink and fill the ink wells. You dropped a pill into a large bottle of water to make the ink and darkness of the ink depended on how many pills you could accidentally drop into the bottle. Then you filled the individual round ink bottles that fit into each desk. No matter how hard I tried, I always spilled ink all over my hands, the floor, and my clothes, so I hated that job. When the first fountain pens came to our school we thought they were marvellous. Even with that great invention, my hands were always ink stained. I was left handed and impatient, so I smeared ink as I wrote even when I used a blotter. Squirting ink at each other with your fountain pen when the teacher wasn't looking was also great sport.



Woodglen School #2068. Class 1943.

The older students had to pump the water from the well for drinking and bring in kindling and coal for the fire. June and her friend, Rosalie, as janitors, were paid \$4.00 a month to put dustbane on the floor, sweep the school, and clean the boards. Some days they would condescend to let me assist them, and oh how I wanted their job. As we moved away when I was in Grade 5, my first ambition was never realized.

Now every school has a Spirit Duplicator or Dry Copier, and a teacher, secretary, or teacher aide can run off 30 copies in minutes. I was thrilled when I was allowed to use the hectograph at Edison. The teacher would write out the worksheet carefully with ink, and then lay it on the hectograph pad. Pulling it off you would have your stencil. You placed a plain sheet of paper over the stencil and pulled it back.

Like magic you had your copy. Unfortunately it only made a few copies and was easily ruined. One morning when I went to get the hectograph jell I burst into tears because mice had chewed huge holes in it during the night. What a lot of work this type of copier must have been for the poor teacher.

The month of December was spent in preparation for the Christmas Concert. We decorated the windows with spruce boughs, hung streamers, and made decorations. The day the neighbors brought in the new spruce lumber, with its sweet, fresh fragrance, to make the stage, was one to remember. Then came the mothers with sheets of many shades to hang across the front of stage. The curtains never once closed smoothly. We never came to school at night, so on concert night, seeing the school full of parents, sitting in the dusky light from the lanterns hanging from the ceiling, gave the schoolroom an eerie beauty.

One skit I remember was "The Old Ford Car". Four desks were set on the stage as the "Car". Four older boys were covered with grey blankets and they were the "tires". My brother Jack was "Father", Loretta Schlachter was "Mother". Edward and I were "Children". To organ music of "The Old Ford Car She Ain't What She Used To Be", we pantomimed a drive in the country. The children fought in the back seat. I was hitting Edward with my rag doll. The parents argued in the front seat and Mother hit Father with her purse. Periodically one of the tires would go flat and poor Father would have to get out and pump one up, while Mother berated him constantly. I was horrified when in my swing to hit Edward with my rag doll, it flew off the stage. A parent caught in and threw it back to me so we could carry on. The climax was all 4 tires going "flat" at once. Amidst delighted laughter, the curtains jerked slowly closed.

When I was in Grade 4, we put on a Santa Claus play. Albert Mercier was Santa and I was Mrs. Claus. Another catastrophe occurred when my pillow for stuffing fell out of my dress to the floor and I had to stuff it back while the audience roared with laughter. Twenty years later my own Grade 3 class did the same play and when I heard the burst of laughter and peeked from behind the curtain, I saw my Santa lose his pillow the same way.

After the concert, Santa came (usually my Father) and gave us bags with an orange, some hard candy, and a candy cane. To children from farms in the 40's, this treat was the highlight of the evening and we savored every bite.

When I was in Grade 3 the teacher collected money from the parents, sent our names and ages to a company in Edmonton, and they sent out gifts suitable to our ages. My gift was such a disappointment

as I received "Eight Cousins" by Louisa May Alcott and my sister Emily received "Little Women". But my best friend, Polly Pichota, opened her gift of a lovely silver, heart-shaped locket. The locket was broken by the end of the evening, but during the Christmas Holidays I fell in love with the pleasure of reading.

Another more drastic tragedy happened that year when the school burned down and I cried as I watched the flames from our livingroom window. The only thing rescued was the old wheezie organ. The culprits who set it were never caught. My brother Don went down the next day and dug through the rubble to find my tin box which he repainted so I would be ready for school again. A foundation was built for the school, a furnace put in, and another one room School moved onto the site. Electricity was installed and I remember a movie projector was brought to the school one night. We saw our very first movies — "Abbott and Costello" and "Lassie Come Home".

Not all of our teachers were as dedicated as Mrs. MacGregor and Miss Rose as by the 40's, few teachers wanted the responsibility of a one room school. One year we had a teacher who loved to have a nap during our lunch hour. The older boys made us play quietly away from the school as she would quite often sleep well past one o'clock if nothing disturbed her.

Every Friday after school she would hitch-hike a ride to Edmonton. One hot Friday in June, my brother Jim and his friend Vincent Schlachter crept in while she was asleep and turned the clock ahead one hour.

She was amazed when she woke and thought she'd overslept, however she said nothing and neither did we. At 2:30 p.m. we were dismissed and luckily she immediately caught a ride to town. The older students knew we couldn't go home an hour early or questions would be asked so the whole school went out behind a large haystack on our farm to play till it was safe to go home. Unfortunately, Mr. Jendrick spotted us when he drove by and our fun was spoiled. The teacher never slept in at lunch time again.

We moved away when I was in Grade 5 and were enrolled in a large school with one room for each Grade. Imagine my mortification when I found out on that first day of school that I had never really learned my times tables. My teacher in the one room school just assigned me pages out of the "Study Arithmetic" and never marked them. I rushed home and my Mom taught me my tables in one evening. I realize there were many areas that had been neglected or ignored in the one room school, partly because the teacher didn't have the time to spend with us, and



partly because of inexperienced or incompetent teaching. A teacher with eight grades and no assistance could not be a miracle worker.

I look back on those years at the one room school with fondness but realize they were not the best years educationally. Many of us learned in spite of our circumstances but the educational system had to improve with consolidation of schools.

Our one room school was one of the last to close down in the district. It had served its purpose but times were changing. As I sit in my modern Grade Three classroom, reading stories of schools long ago, and telling my students about my short stint in a one room school, I see how fascinated they are with the "old days". However, I feel strongly that the education they are receiving today is so much superior to what mine was, and I appreciate being able to give them so much more. But, why do I remember it so well?

## Rural Education Under the School

**Division: 1939-55**

by Leo W. Kunelius

The early pioneer history of the schools and school districts in the area surrounding the town of Westlock will have been told in the accounts of the various, original districts from the earliest, Edison School District No. 1029, established in 1904 before Alberta was a Province, to Springwell S.D. No. 4454, organized in late 1929. The present article will confine itself to the establishment and early history of the Pembina and Westlock School Divisions which took over the administration and operation of all rural and hamlet schools. Where appropriate, reference will be made to those districts within the area surrounding Westlock.

The original "four-by-four" school districts, so described because they approximated areas four miles square, provided a logical size of district in which all residents could be within reasonable walking distance to school. For a time their one-room schools met the basic educational needs and demands of a pioneer community. However their shortcomings soon became evident as economic conditions aggravated by the long depression often made operation difficult and as technological development and urban growth demanded educational opportunities beyond the scope and means of such schools. A few progressive districts tried to improve opportunities by co-operating to form consolidated districts, thus providing larger schools with limited high school offerings. These commonly involved a hamlet or village as their centre, as occurred at Clyde and Westlock in 1919/20. Sunnybank, near Westlock, represented a rare example of a rural district that



Hillman School at Dapp Corner, 1914-1947. This school is now being used as a museum at Dapp.

provided two rooms in which the senior room was devoted to grades above Six. However, most rural students wishing to study beyond Grade 8 or 9 had to leave home.

Prior to 1935 the Hon. Perrin Baker, Minister of Education in the UFA Government, had proposed the organization of larger units of rural school administration but the Government had lacked the courage to act. Soon after Social Credit came into power in 1935, William Aberhart, then Premier and Minister of Education, turned his attention to the plight of the rural schools. He endorsed the concept of larger administrative units and his Government quickly passed enabling legislation. The speed of the results was phenomenal.

The first unit or "School Division" to be formed was Berry Creek Division No. 1 in drought stricken south-central Alberta. Under the strong encouragement of the Government, establishment of additional school divisions proceeded rapidly with the provincial school inspectors serving as the Department's principal, organizing officers. When the Pembina School Division No. 37 was established, effective January 1, 1939, five-sixths of the rural districts had been included in school divisions. By the end of 1940 this reorganization was nearly complete. The revolution in Alberta's public education was well under way.

Dr. H. C. Newland, Supervisor of Schools, the responsible executive officer and driving force behind this rapid spread of school divisions, states in the Annual Report of the Department of Education for 1940, in part, as follows:

"The objective of a high school education for every child who desires it, irrespective of where he lives, while not yet achieved in all Divisions, has become immeasurably closer to realization. It is generally agreed that the best type of education is provided by concentrating instruction in larger centres where equipment, accommodation and teachers' qualifications are at a higher level."

Dr. Newland did not live to see his dream fully





A typical rural teacherage, Chain School.

realized. Nor could he foresee that within twenty years, the educational revolution would bring instruction to the end of Grade 12 within reach of nearly every Albertan.

The Westlock region, due to its nearly frontier nature, was later in developing than earlier settled parts of Alberta. Consequently centralization of rural schools and extension of high school service were just beginning at the end of the first ten years, 1939-48. In the next ten years development was rapid. By 1955 Dr. Newland's dream was nearing its goal within the Westlock Division with less than one-tenth of the region's enrolment left in one-room schools and high school education within reach of nine-tenths of the school population. By 1959 the goal had been reached.

**The Pembina School Division No. 37**

The Pembina Division represented a large, sprawling area straddling the Pembina River from Belvedere to Flatbush and stretching west from Rochester and Clyde to Fort Assiniboine and Timeu beyond the Athabasca River. It comprised 84 school districts. The largest, Manola, had three teachers while 74 had one-room schools. Barrhead and the consolidated districts of Clyde and Westlock were not included in the Division though they were part of the Pembina Inspectorate. The Pickardville, Busby and Vimy areas were then in the Sturgeon Division. Thus the town of Westlock was at the southern boundary. Much of the Division represented frontier communities and sub-marginal lands. Most of the more developed and prosperous area lay in a narrow band along the Westlock-Barrhead highway, the only bit of gravelled road in the Inspectorate. Many of the school districts forming the subject of the present book were in this, more favored area.

The 84 districts were grouped into five subdivisions, each represented by one elected member on the Board of Trustees. This made each man responsi-

ble for the work of about 17 former Boards of Trustees. Needless to say, it placed heavy demands upon each. This pressure was partly alleviated by the provision for a full-time, qualified secretary-treasurer and the services of a superintendent of schools appointed by the Minister of Education and who would also assume, for the Department, most of the duties of the former school inspector.

The following resident farmers were elected the first **Board of Trustees**:

- Subdivision 1, Col. John Mck Hughes, Flatbush
- Subdivision 2, Walter E. Burchett, Tawatinaw
- Subdivision 3, Charles Yuill, Linaria
- Subdivision 4, Nicol S. Miller, Mosside
- Subdivision 5, Ollie T. Lee, Mellowdale

The Board appointed Gordon B. Pierce of Westlock its secretary-treasurer and the Department named James P. White, a former high school principal, superintendent to advise and assist the Board. This was the team that faced the many initial tasks, problems and obstacles as they launched the new Division on its way.



Cotswold School, Mrs. Mary McGregor teaching. 1947.

Within five years the personnel had completely changed. First, L. J. (Lucky) Landvatter of Dapp, Carl Mast of Neerlandia and William Sutherland of Summerdale/Barrhead replaced Mssrs. Hughes, Lee and Nickle respectively. Then in late 1941, Mr. White enlisted in His Majesty's Forces and Leo W. Kunelius was transferred from Taber to replace him. Less than two years later, when Gordon Pierce moved to Edmonton, Walter Burchett resigned as trustee to assume the duties of secretary-treasurer while R. D. (Bob) Jorgenson succeeded him as trustee. A year later Mr. Yuill moved out of his subdivision to Barrhead to be replaced by Arthur Stanley of Sunnyside/Westlock. Except for Archie J. Campbell of Flatbush who succeeded Lucky Landvatter in January 1947, the above personnel remained unchanged



until the end of that year when the Pembina Division was dissolved in favour of two, more compact, new Divisions — Westlock No. 37 and Barrhead No. 52. Most of the districts adjacent to Westlock had been in Subdivision 2, represented first by Walter Burchett, then by Bob Jorgenson. Both men have since left behind an indelible mark of community service — one in local education, the other in provincial government. These early trustees were the unsung heroes of school divisional administration whose valuable contributions may have been forgotten because they were not spectacular. Yet they struggled steadily forward, laying the sturdy foundations upon which those who came later could build a more conspicuous legacy.

Throughout its nine years, 1939-47 inclusive, the Pembina Division was continuously faced with severe problems in its efforts to maintain and improve the educational opportunities and services in its schools. The first years were the most trying as pioneering conditions, marginal lands and the long depression had left a sad inheritance for the new Board. Schools and furniture, often substandard in the first place, were in poor repair, some in urgent need of replacement. Some were very overcrowded, one was soon lost by fire. In the more frontier districts to the north and north-west, most of the schools were simple, if not rough, log buildings of which the Hillman and Timeu schools shown here were typical examples.

The floors of spruce, fir or pine were heavily oiled to discourage dust and wear. Some had home-made desks of native lumber. Thus it was not uncommon, when sitting down, to encounter a sharp sliver or a protruding nail. A majority of the schools were heated by a long, camp heater fashioned from an old, steel, oil barrel. Though this was sometimes protected by a shield of galvanized sheet iron, pupils seated near it roasted while those near the walls shivered. Colds and cold feet were common. Very few schools had storm windows; thus a favorite winter pastime was sketching designs on the frosted panes. Outdoor plumbing, twin-shed style, many long steps away from the school house was universal.

Teaching materials and equipment were often discouragingly meagre. Libraries lacked the barest of reading and reference books; art, music and natural science materials were virtually nil; the few wall maps were tattered or limited to the free Neilson Chocolate maps of Canada and The World; most sports equipment was improvised. Added to all the above, the Division inherited tens of thousands of dollars of unpaid accounts and arrears of teachers' salaries. These became a first charge on the revenues of the Division.

These were the problems which challenged the trustees and officials of Pembina. Soon they faced new problems brought on by the War. The most serious was the critical shortage of qualified teachers which arose and deeply undermined the quality of instruction. The following accounts will reveal how the trustees met their problems with courage and growing success.

### **School Buildings and Accommodation**

From the beginning, the construction activities, of necessity, were concentrated on the building of one-room schools — 25 in all. As settlement spread, six new districts had to be organized and schools provided. In nine large, sprawling districts serious overcrowding and long walking distances were overcome by the erection of a second or No. 2 school at a site a few miles away. This created a new attendance area similar to a new district. One of these was Irish Creek No. 2, built in 1940 and later established as Halcreek S.D. No. 4952. Ten dilapidated schools, seven of them of log construction, were replaced. Other school construction during the Division's nine years consisted of two-room schools at Mellowdale, Jarvie and Dapp and one of three rooms at Neerlandia, each to replace and enlarge existing, poor accommodation. (It is somewhat ironic that by September, 1959, not one small school was left operating. Some had been in use fewer than ten years. Even Mellowdale was gone. Nevertheless each one had fulfilled an essential pioneer community need.)

The following extract from the superintendent's report at the Board meeting, December 27, 1944, illustrates the urgent problems which sometimes arose:

"I find it necessary to urge the temporary closing of the Arvilla school due to the awful conditions under which pupils and teacher must work. The most modest health considerations rule it unfit for occupancy during the winter months. Therefore I recommend that the school be closed until emergency repairs are made. I also urge that a new school and teacherage be erected in 1945. There are no boarding facilities and Miss Clark has had to pay \$7.00 per month for use of part of an abandoned house and to provide her fuel. She would be glad to transfer to another school, now vacant."

Another annoying problem was the serious lack of suitable living accommodations for teachers. Good boarding opportunities were very scarce. The few teacherages were generally small, uncomfortable "shacks"; family sized ones were nil. To alleviate the situation, the Division gradually built 27 modest teacherages, 21 of them at one-room schools.

An early and alert move made by the Board had been the appointment of a competent maintenance-repair man who could also act as the Division's construction foreman. He was Ludvig Hanson, who with truck, tools and the Divisional workshop proved himself an invaluable handyman in countless in-



Board of Trustees, Pembina School District, 1944. Front: Arthur Stanley, L. J. Landvatter, Wm. Sutherland. Back: Leo Kunelius, Supt., Walter Burchett, Sec-Treas., Carl Mast, R. D. Jorgenson.

stances. He was in charge of nearly all Pembina's construction; in the shop he built countless tables, stands and cupboards for various needs; he responded to many emergency situations arising in the schools. To teachers, his truck was a welcome sight — delivering supplies, pausing to repaint a glossy or pitted blackboard or to carry out a variety of repairs.

Three-fifths of Pembina Division's construction program had been in the western or Barrhead portion where the need had been most acute. Hardly any of it had touched the districts adjacent to Westlock. Their turn to benefit would come later, after Westlock Con. S.D. had become a part of the new, Westlock Division.

In an effort to stretch the lean equipment and furniture budgets to the limit several novel practices were adopted. To get the most value out of the library dollar, at a time when the recently introduced "enterprise system" demanded a large variety of reference books, a hopefully ingenious system of circulating library boxes was devised. The contents of every four boxes were carefully planned to vary and complement one another. In this way the boxes could serve four schools in turn. The boxes, with shelves, provided a mini-cupboard. The superintendent's initial optimism faded as the intended bi-monthly circulation from school to neighboring school often broke down. In another plan, a basic kit of elementary science equipment was drafted and sets of these purchased; suitably designed box-cupboards were made in Hanson's workshop. These sets were distributed to the needy schools. To economize on desks, suitable pupil chairs were purchased while matching tables were made in the shop. Whenever

Mr. Hanson was not out on construction projects he was busily turning out a variety of furniture for the Division's maintenance and up-grading program. The above means helped to stretch the tax dollar.

### Staffing the Schools

A school without a teacher is like a car without gasoline — it is useless. Therein lay the greatest single problem that plagued the schools of Alberta during, and for many years after, World War 2. It was most acute in the outlying Divisions like Pembina. When teachers were in short supply very few of them could be attracted to the less desirable or remote places. This is illustrated in the following extracts from the reports of the superintendent to the Board:

Sept. 5/44: "Out of 90 teachers on staff at the end of June, 26 left us and only 12 replacements have been obtained. Fifteen schools are without any."

Oct. 12/44, "Four additional teachers have been obtained, at least until Christmas. Five light schools have been provided with correspondence lessons and a supervisor. The six heavier schools will remain closed until teachers can be secured. This may not be until Christmas when student teachers from an Emergency Program at Normal School will be released for teaching until Easter."

May 30/46, "The picture for next fall is gloomy indeed. Based upon interviews and a questionnaire to 97 teachers on staff only 31 plan to remain in their schools, 15 may remain if given a suitable transfer, 10 are doubtful, 11 have not replied and 30 are leaving for a variety of reasons. Add to this five schools without teachers. Obviously many classrooms will be left with correspondence instruction only."

Short-term emergency training programs and lower qualifications for admission helped to increase the flow of elementary teachers but the gap remained wide. The situation would have been much worse had not many dedicated ex-teachers, many of them busy farmwives, returned to the classroom. Many a day the superintendent scoured the countryside for married ex-teachers, imploring them to rescue their local school. They responded nobly, some even leaving home for more distant schools. Many later became outstanding and devoted teachers. They represented the home-guard members of His Majesty's Forces whose names deserve to be carved on plaques. The Westlock area bears ample, mute evidence of them.

For several years the Correspondence School Branch of the Department of Education played a significant role in the education of rural children. Many schools could be kept open only by enrolling the pupils with the Correspondence School, then having them come to school to study their correspondence lessons under the supervision of a former high-school student or other non-certificated person. Thus these "correspondence supervisors", as they came to be called, helped to staff the schools and played an important part during a critical period. Several of them went on to become teachers. The worst year for the Province was 1946-47 when 673 schools and



15,400 pupils were under correspondence supervisors. By 1950 this had declined to 288 schools.

In the Pembina Division this form of instruction began in 1944, in five schools. By 1946/47, this had increased fourfold. In the newly formed Westlock Division the next year, correspondence instruction began with five schools and ended with three in 1953. However, students in the small high schools continued to the end to augment their limited programs by means of correspondence courses.

### **Closing Schools and Transporting Pupils**

Early support for closing rural schools and bussing the pupils to graded schools arose from the lack of teachers, rather than from parental convictions that the future of rural education lay in this direction. In fact, Board proposals to bus pupils often met with stiff opposition throughout the Province. In the Pembina Division the first modest steps proceeded smoothly. From Brookland the pupils were absorbed at Manola in 1945 and the next year the Bouchard pupils came to Clyde under agreement with the Clyde Board. The vehicles used would now be museum pieces. A Mr. Farrants of Brookland agreed to transport the pupils and to provide an old truck chassis, while the Board undertook to have Mr. Hanson build a suitable van body.

For Bouchard, Nelson's Garage at Clyde converted an odd-looking army ambulance into a similar bus but with a metal body. Such conveyances later would have been condemned but for a time they met a need at minimum cost.

The centralization at Dapp in 1947 was the first to truly represent the trend of the future. It took three years of negotiations and a school construction program at Dapp before the residents of Hillman, Scanlon and Round Up agreed to the closing of their schools. This time the Board purchased a regulation school bus. The Dapp school was now assured of four teachers and a modest high school program. Other centres were to follow as conditions permitted.

The year 1947 was a difficult and a special one. At the January meeting the superintendent had warned the Board that the Division was facing a most difficult year. The situation arose from two major obstacles blocking the way towards an improved quality and level of education in the schools. The first was the most critical teacher shortage in its history; the second, a very urgent need for larger and better facilities at the hamlet centres which were expected to become the cradles for educational improvement.

During the year numerous schools had been under correspondence instruction and many schools had suffered part-time closures. On the positive side, the development at Dapp had marked a step forward. The end of the year saw the partition of the unwieldy

Pembina Division and the promise of a new era. The western half became the new Barrhead School Division No. 52, leaving the eastern half, together with the Busby and Picardville areas transferred from the Sturgeon Division to become the new Westlock Division No. 37. The step resulted in two, more compact and more logical administrative areas.

For the remainder of this article attention will be limited to an early history of the Westlock Division. Where appropriate, it will relate more closely to that one-third of the Division which surrounds the town of Westlock and is the subject of this book.

### **The Early Years of the Westlock Division — 1948-55**

The Westlock School Division retained the Number "37", the administrative quarters and the officials of the Pembina Division, while three trustees — R. D. Jorgenson, A. J. Campbell and Arthur Stanley — remained to form part of the Board of Trustees. They were joined by two newly elected members — Mike Romaniuk of Halach/Tawatinaw and O. W. Elliott of Busby to complete the five-man Board. The following year W. D. Lea of Jarvie replaced Mr. Jorgenson and Alois Zaczkowski succeeded Mr. Stanley. In 1951 C. L. Watson of Fawcett replaced Archie Campbell and the following year R. C. Ponting became the representative for the Westlock area in place of Mr. Zaczkowski. In 1954 Sardin Semeniuk replaced Mike Romaniuk and W. R. Sterling succeeded Bill Elliott. The above were the trustees who piloted the Division during its early years from 1948 to 1955.

The Division stretched from Busby to Flatbush and from the Pembina River valley lands east to the former boundaries. It comprised 57 school districts forming a logical administrative unit with a single major market and medical centre serving virtually the entire Division. It offered new opportunities for planned over-all educational development, giving promise for the future. The Clyde and Westlock Consolidated Districts remained outside. However the inclusion of Westlock had been under negotiation since 1946 and was soon to bear fruit.

The Board at once attacked the pressing school construction needs which it had inherited and which involved all eight hamlet centres. In the first year a 3-room school was built at Fawcett and a 4-classroom building was begun at Tawatinaw. These were financed by the sale of \$47,000 in 20-year debentures issued at 4¼ percent and which sold above par. This represented a new form of Divisional financing. The Pembina Board had financed all its capital construction out of current revenue and short-term bank loans because it had been unwilling to commit the

Division to long-term debt. At the time there was some apprehension to such debenture borrowing but it soon proved to be not only a necessary but an astute move. As events would show, the Westlock Board adopted this policy for financing most of its subsequent capital expenditures.

### **Long Term Master Plan**

The Board soon recognized the need for a master plan which would take into consideration the needs and interests of the Division as a whole and would guide its orderly development over a period of years. The superintendent was therefore instructed to prepare a draft proposal for a comprehensive, long-term educational development program. This was prepared in early 1949 and debated. Then at a special meeting in June the Board adopted in principle a long-term development plan. This charted, in general terms, the direction that educational progress should take. It dealt with the gradual elimination of one-room schools, the development of centralized schools, the extension of high school opportunities and the provision for a comprehensive, central high school. It indicated other uses for existing, old buildings and means for financing the required building program.

The plan would be presented to the representatives of the Division's 57 districts at their forthcoming conference at Hazel Bluff on June 20th. If endorsed by them the Board would proceed to seek the necessary approval to borrow, by means of 20-year debentures, \$150,000 for the early stages of its program including the first stage of a central high school at Westlock.

The Westlock Con. S.D. was now part of the Division, the agreement for inclusion having been formalized on June 1, 1949. This important event removed an obstacle to unified, division-wide educational improvement, particularly as it related to high school services and programs. The way was now open for the development of a central high school of the composite type that could offer a wide range of subjects. Likewise, the gradual centralization of surrounding rural schools was now assured. However, before such a program could proceed, the crowded conditions in the town school demanded immediate and extensive construction at Westlock.

To return to the Division's master plan, this was endorsed at the Hazel Bluff Conference but the proposed money by-law was later defeated in a plebiscite of ratepayers. Undaunted, the Divisional Board immediately adopted a new strategy. They would borrow by debenture the maximum amount permitted by law for which the consent of ratepayers was not required, namely ten percent of the Division's assessment in any one year. In 1949 this permitted a loan of

\$57,000. A reduced unit of the high school would be started now and some of the planned construction elsewhere would be deferred. However, this amount, together with bank loans, permitted the achievement of a remarkable building program in 1949. New and enlarged classroom facilities at Busby, Flatbush and Tawatinaw enabled ten rural districts to be centralized and high school opportunities to be improved. One room was added to the old Westlock school and construction of the central high school was begun. The Division's master plan was beginning to unfold.

### **Continuing Development**

Progress continued year by year. In his annual report to the Board at the end of 1951 the superintendent reflects with optimism over the past four years. He notes that economic conditions had improved, material shortages were less acute, roads and bus routes were improving, and financial assistance from the Government was increasing. Centralization of rural schools was progressing well with one-half of 48 such schools now bussed to graded schools. This included the first four schools to be accommodated at Westlock-Prosperous, Riverdale, Sunnybank and Woodglenn.

With more pride he notes the rapid increase in high school services. The first unit of the Westlock central school was now fully operational with ten teachers and 250 students in grades 7-12. Besides a full program of academic subjects, for the first time the school was offering courses in Home Economics and Industrial Arts. Busses were bringing students from Busby, Dapp, Jarvie, Pibroch and Tawatinaw for a half-day's instruction per week in the latter subjects. Westlock was now the senior high school (grades 10-12) for the entire southern part of the Division from Busby to Pibroch. A northern high school was undergoing trial at Jarvie.

The superintendent's report two years later draws attention to several major accomplishments during 1953. An 8-room addition was made to the Westlock High School. Pibroch had received a modern 3-room school to replace existing buildings. At Jarvie the elementary school was enlarged. All parts of the Division enjoyed the services of a complete Health Unit. All pupils were now being transported in regulation school busses. Rural electrification had reached Busby and by next year should be extended to Flatbush. Thus all schools soon could enjoy the comforts and conveniences which electric power makes possible. To reduce the high cost of books in the senior grades, the Board had introduced a textbook rental plan for grades 7-12. This had met with enthusiastic response.

Since 1951 six more one-room schools had been centralized. Among these were Hazel Bluff at West-



lock, Halcreek and Irish Creek at Tawatinaw and Sunniebend at Pibroch.

The report also discusses a number of concerns. Foremost was the continuing teacher shortage. Since three schools were still under correspondence instruction it revealed that no screening of applicants for the 28 vacancies last summer had been possible. Until incompetent teachers could be "weeded out" the quality of instruction would continue to suffer.

Five centres faced urgent construction needs. Temporary classroom space had been provided at Jarvie in the community skating rink, at Fawcett by restoring the condemned old school and at Westlock by moving in several vacant one-room schools. A new six-room elementary school and an auditorium-gymnasium for the high school were needed at Westlock. Several new schools had been left in an unfinished state; most schools lacked electrical wiring and light fixtures as well as plumbing. To ensure greater efficiency and economy a central bus garage and unification of bus services was needed. Increasing transportation costs, aggravated by growing parental demands for gate-to-gate service, threatened to outstrip the Division's ability to provide such service.

The trend of the past five years continued through 1954. A fully modern four-classroom elementary school was erected at Fawcett, marking a new stage in the quality of Divisional construction at its hamlet centres. Remodelling and enlargement of the Jarvie senior school resulted in a very functional, small high school. However, the issue of a single senior high school for the north remained unresolved as both Fawcett and Jarvie vied for recognition. Construction was being financed with the aid of modest, annual debenture borrowing. The debenture debt now stood at \$221,000, up from \$55,000 in 1949.

This year the well known Edison school near Westlock was closed, as were five others in the northern region. Twelve one-room schools were now left in operation. For the first time in ten years no correspondence supervisors were required.

The goal of high school opportunities in all parts of the Division was getting closer. Nine-tenths of all students could reach Grade 11 while Grade 12 was available to every three out of four. Very few would face a bus ride in excess of one hour.

Pressing problems remained, however. At Westlock where two-fifths of the Division's pupils were in attendance, four one-room schools and the high school library were in use as classrooms. An eight-room elementary school was urgently needed while the gymnasium and bus garage could no longer be deferred. The smaller centres also were awaiting increased accommodation and improved facilities.

With each year's progress came new capital requirements.

Looking back over the past six years the Board of Trustees had every reason to be proud of the rapid advances made towards the realization of the master plan, adopted in principle in 1949. The trustees had maintained a remarkable team spirit and cooperation, submerging any subdivisional rivalries in the interests of the whole. They worked earnestly and hard, devoting much thought and energy towards the improvement of education throughout the Division. Their wise counsels and their patience in listening to grievances avoided many awkward situations and led to sound decisions. Their names, in alphabetic order, are deservedly repeated here:

A. J. Campbell, W. O. Elliott, W. Dobson Lea, R. C. Ponting, Mike Romaniuk, C. L. Watson, Alois Zaczkowski; Sardin Semeniuk and W. R. Sterling, newly elected in 1954. To these must be added the men who struggled for many years on behalf of the Pembina Division: R. D. Jorgenson, L. J. Landvatter, Carl Mast, Arthur Stanley, William Sutherland and Charles Yuill.

Another man, one who more than any other, played a vital part in the history of the two Divisions from the very beginning was Walter Burchett. For the first four years he served as trustee. Then, as secretary-treasurer and executive officer for the Board, he left behind an enviable record as a devoted and dedicated public servant and above all, as a friend to all who came to him with their problems. Unsparing of himself, he always kept the welfare of all those concerned in education uppermost in mind. He skillfully balanced the interests of three key groups — the school children, the teachers and the ratepayers — thereby earning the trust and respect of all.

The reader may wonder why so little has been said about the many teachers who faithfully served their schools for many years. This may appear as a serious oversight since, obviously, teachers played an essential part. However their part belongs more in the history of individual schools than of the Division.

### **The Division Expands**

The Co-Terminous Boundaries Commission sought to establish, in so far as possible, co-terminous boundaries between school divisions and municipalities. To the Westlock Division the decisions of the Commission brought significant changes at the end of 1954. Its boundaries were enlarged by the addition of the Linaria and Vimy regions which resulted in an increase of one fifth in area, in school population and in assessment and of two-thirds in the amount of debenture debt. It added two central schools and two one-room schools to the previous numbers. It began a new period in the history of a



revised Westlock School Division which is beyond the scope of the present article.

The accompanying map reveals the boundary changes which occurred. The heavy solid lines indicate the school division as it was in 1954. The dotted lines represent the boundaries of the co-terminous municipal unit of Westlock. In the north, part of the Division lies in Local Improvement District #107.

"Leo Kunelius, who writes the above historical account on the Pembina and Westlock School Divisions, served as superintendent of schools at Westlock from December, 1941, to October, 1955 when he was appointed inspector of high schools and transferred to Calgary."

Leo and Pearl Kunelius look upon their fourteen years at Westlock among the best years in their lives. Here their four children, Joyce, Karen, Ingrid and Eric were born and received their early education. Here they established their first home. Though they were very busy years, the community life and friendliness which they enjoyed here has not been matched since, Leo says.

## School Centralization at Westlock

by Dobson Lea

After the organization of Edison School District, Swallowhurst School was built about five miles farther west on the main road. When Westlock became a hamlet the Swallowhurst building was moved into town. A house was used for a school in the Wabash District until the Westlock Consolidated School District was formed.

In 1919 there was considerable demand by the pupils of Hazel Bluff and Wabash to attend Westlock Consolidated for high school grades. A school bus was provided from Hazel Bluff to Westlock and return. For the first few months it was driven by Vern Crispell and was later operated for many years by Jim

Brown. The desire of parents to improve educational opportunities for their children was responsible for this early development of a centralized school in the Westlock area.

The Pembina School Division was formed October 13, 1938 and began its first full year on January 1, 1939. It surrounded the Westlock Consolidated District and included schools around Barrhead. Superintendents Hollinshead, White and Kunelius are remembered from Pembina Division days.

Subsequent to previous negotiations, the Westlock School Division was formed in January 1948 from part of the larger Division. It served a more compact area than the Pembina Division but it didn't own land in the Town of Westlock. This soon became a problem because there was a growing need for high school instruction for pupils who came from the expanding rural schools.

Westlock School Division and the Consolidated School District entered into a discussion about mutual problems early in 1948. An amalgamation agreement was arranged and negotiations began regarding the construction of a larger school somewhere in the town. Mr. P. Campbell-Hope was the architect.

Meanwhile centralization was in high gear at other centres in the Division. It was not until May 5, 1950 that an agreement was reached concerning a suitable site near the existing Westlock School. Two more busses were purchased prior to September 1, 1950 to make a fleet of three.

Under the able guidance of Superintendent Leo W. Kunelius, with Gordon Pierce and later Walter Burchett as secretary, adjacent rural schools were given an opportunity to centralize. The policy of the Divisional Board was to consider centralization of a school only at the request of the majority of the parents of the school children affected. Occasionally the ratepayers within that District disagreed with the wishes of the parents. That made decision-making difficult. The School Act specified that only ratepayers had the right to vote. Final approval regarding centralization rested with the Provincial Department of Education. In some cases this opened the door for letters and petitions being sent directly to the Department.

There were unwarranted accusations that the Board deliberately generated the movement toward centralization by placing mediocre teachers or correspondence supervisors in charge of certain schools which were likely prospects. One would have expected that the Edison school, situated, as it was, on a very good road only three miles east of Westlock, would have been one of the first bussed in. As a matter of fact, at the request of Edison ratepayers, through their trustee, the school was renovated and



Westlock School Board, about 1954. Top row: Leo Kunelius, Dobson Lea, Charles Watson, Sarden Seminuk. Front row: Walter Burchett, Dick Ponting and Russell Sterling.



placed on a full basement as late as 1950. Ironically they unexpectedly requested centralization a few years later and this occurred in 1954.

The major restraints in relation to centralization were the limited amount of funds available for school construction and for purchase of school busses, and the fear on the part of some ratepayers within a local District that small communities for which the school building had become the centre of social activities would disappear.

One result of centralization of a rural school and the subsequent provision of bus service was the obvious improvement of roads throughout that district. As time went on, other schools sought centralization as a means of getting at least some of their roads upgraded, as well as for the improved educational opportunities.

Cooperation between the School Division and the Consolidated District gradually began to improve and the stage was set for new advances in educational services and for a pooling of the educational resources in the area. By the fall of 1950 the Westlock School was able to provide a laboratory — classroom for science students, a home economics unit and a shop for instruction in Industrial Arts. The Prosperous District was bussed in beginning September, 1950 followed by Woodglen on January 7, 1951. Clover Valley which had earlier been bussed to Pickardville was transferred to Westlock at that time also. Riverdale and Sunnybank were centralized to Westlock in September 1951.

High School students from Busby, Pickardville and Pibroch were also bussed to Westlock that year. Special busses began bringing Junior High School pupils from Jarvie, Pickardville, Pibroch and Tawatinaw for one half day of instruction in Home Economics and Industrial Arts each week.

A report for the year 1951 shows the following sources of pupils attending the Westlock school: Westlock Consolidated 349, Clover Valley 32, Prosperous 20, Riverdale 36, Sunnybank 25, Wood Glen 35, Hazel Bluff 10, and Pembina Heights 11.

Students taking grades nine to twelve at Westlock also came from Busby 4, Blue Hill 1, Cotswold 1, Edison 4, Halcreek 2, Kingsway 1, Pibroch 9, Pibroch East 1, Pickardville 10, Racine 2, Springview 3, Sunniebend 4, Tawatinaw 1, Trail's End 1, Vermilion Springs 4, and outside the Division 8. Many of these of course, boarded in the Westlock area.

Pupils from Hazel Bluff school were bussed to Westlock beginning September 1952.

Because of natural population growth, and the additional attendance due to centralization, accommodation in the Westlock school buildings became a

problem. In 1953 an eight room addition was made to the high school. In 1955 a six room primary school was built and construction began on a gymnasium with a stage at one end and bleachers at the other. Mr. Leo W. Kunelius who had given fifteen years of faithful service as a superintendent accepted an appointment to the High School Inspection Staff with the Department of Education. He left during 1955 with the best wishes of the Board and the teachers throughout the Division. He was succeeded by Mr. Earl McDonald of Provost. In 1955 the Linaria area was added to the Division and high school pupils from there were centralized to Westlock instead of Barrhead.

In 1956 most of the Poplar Knoll pupils were bussed to Westlock and in 1957 Springwell and Pembina Heights came in as well. In September of 1959 the Grade ten, eleven and twelve students from Dapp and Jarvie were bussed in to attend the larger high school. At that time 1,012 of the 2,525 pupils in the Division were attending Westlock.

By 1962 school bussing was a big business and had outgrown a servicing shop purchased from Westlock Farm Equipment in 1955. A three acre parcel of land was purchased on Highway 44 near the railway track, on which to build a shop for servicing the 41 busses it then owned. Mr. Rollie M. Ward became superintendent in 1962 just in time to finalize the construction of an elementary gymnasium and a new vocational wing. This was followed by a Business Education wing in 1964. Another major attraction at the Westlock School was provided by the school bands directed by Jerry Bryant. It was natural at this time for nearby smaller schools to seek an opportunity to centralize at Westlock. The Pickardville school was the first near-by centralized school to close completely and bus the pupils from all grades to Westlock.

By 1967 all high school pupils in the Division were attending Westlock with the exception of fourteen Grade tens at Fawcett and sixteen Vimy students who preferred to attend at Legal. By 1968 the enrolment at Westlock was 1373 which was more than half the enrolment in the whole Division. Nelson Taylor became the new music teacher that year.

Further centralization occurred sporadically and took place to a large extent because of the problems of double bus runs attempting to deliver pupils to two different centralized schools. Some of the centralized schools around Westlock (Clyde, Busby, Linaria, Dapp, etc.) have preferred to offer locally the best educational programs possible for certain grades in relation to their enrolment, rather than send their pupils to what is perceived by some parents to

be a more impersonal teaching situation in a much larger school.

Mr. R. H. Sabey succeeded Mr. Ward as superintendent in 1969 and after a year and a half was followed by Dr. B. R. Staples. The chairman of the Westlock Divisional Board, Mr. R. C. Ponting, for health reasons, did not seek re-election in 1971 after ably directing Board activities for eighteen years. He was succeeded by Mr. R. W. McLaughlin.

In 1970 a large Junior High School was built on a separate twenty acre site. Incorporated with it is a gymnasium, a library, a music room and other facilities necessary in a modern school.

Many other changes have taken place in the personnel of the Board over these years and the current Superintendent is Mr. Eldon Olstad.

The pattern of school centralization at Westlock has corresponded to the growth and development of the surrounding community. Pupils attending the schools in Westlock now have advantages equal to, or better than, the pupils who attend schools anywhere else in the province.

## School Libraries

School libraries were almost non-existent in the early schools. Each teacher had a collection of books, probably few in number and well-worn. When a classroom received some new books, it was a real occasion — a time for celebration.

So it was that, when Superintendent R. Ward found that he had \$200.00 left over to give to the elementary schools to begin a library, excitement reigned. The staff bought paperbacks and divided them up according to the grades, and kept them in the staff rooms. These books were added to with the loan of books from the Divisional library.

When the new grades 3 & 4 building was completed, a room was set aside for a library. Mrs. Molly Robins went to Calgary to take a course on organizing an elementary library, and on her return became librarian. Mrs. Robins, Mrs. Gladys Olsen and Mr. Ken Nixon went to Red Deer to view and order books. Among the books chosen were the World Book and Child Craft Series.

In about 1970, Mrs. Jean Stanley came to help Mrs. Robins and after a year took charge. The number of books has grown greatly to approximately 10,000. They are well used, and with larger classes the need for more shelves and space is apparent.

The Junior High library opened to students after the new school opened in September of 1969, with Jim McGaughey in charge and Sally Smart as half-time library-aide.

Located in the centre of the school building, the library was carpeted — a luxury then and a first in the

area, and accommodated approximately 30 students. books were transferred from the high school library, and Mr. McGaughey gave formal instruction in library skills so that students could make the best use of the library. At this time the shelves were not well stocked with books so the ones available were much appreciated and in great demand. Magazines were very popular. Filmstrips and cassettes and a listening station were available to students at a later date.

In September of 1970, Mr. McGaughey was transferred to the High School library, and Mrs. Sally Smart has managed the library since.

Physically the Library remains the same in 1983, but with the addition of more shelving the number of books has increased to almost 10,000 plus 16 sets of encyclopedias. The library continues to provide a variety of books for leisure reading, up-to-date reference books and a retreat for reading, learning and studying.

The first high school library, in the late 50's, was a small room behind one of the classrooms. It contained mostly novels from the high school read-list. Mrs. Dorothy Woodman kept it open a couple of hours a week. In 1961 it was moved to a classroom, many more books were added (some junior high books also), and shelves were placed along the walls and down the centre of the room. Mr. John Noel looked after the library, with the help from students and family, until late in 1968 when Mrs. Beth Cameron came in to assist him. When Mr. Noel retired in 1969, Mrs. Cameron carried on.

When a new wing, containing business education, shop and home economics sections was added, an attractive library was added. Mr. McGaughey was transferred from the junior high school and he and Mrs. Cameron moved the old library and organized the new library.

When Mr. McGaughey left the public school to go over to St. Mary's, Mrs. Cameron carried on and after a few months was given Mrs. Joyce Kiddell as a full-time assistant. Mrs. Deloris Booker followed Mrs. Cameron as a teacher-librarian, and Mrs. Bente Scarnati is in charge now.

The library was growing. The emphasis had changed. The reference section was growing greatly as a change in curriculum required more research be done by the students. The library was becoming a resource centre and the new facility gave more chance for research, more room, more book and periodicals. There are now approximately 6,000 books and many audio-visual kits in the library.

A security system needs to be instituted to help retain these books.



## Schools

### Kathleen MacLachlan

In the early days just after the turn of the century trails to rural schools in Alberta all seemed to be interspersed with mudholes, corduroy, or frog ponds. These so-called roads were traversed by homesteaders using wagons, democrats, or buggies for the most part horse-drawn, but sometimes ox-powered. For school children, walking to and from the place of learning was the order of the day. To have attempted to wear shoes and stockings to wade the bogs and creeks would have been a dire waste of shoe leather and money. Consequently, necessity rather than fashion decreed that classes consist of a barefoot population in summer. The reason for the watery approaches to the schools seems to have been that the buildings were located on a hill or high ground probably as protection from floods or inundation during spring run-off. Felt boots, shoe-packs, Penman's long-johns and black woollen stockings were worn by the children in winter.

The school grounds were mostly bare open sandy areas where violets and crocuses grew, and gophers popped out of their burrows and chattered in the sun. Playground equipment was non-existent except, perhaps, for a few feet of cowbarn rope brought by a student for a skip-rope, or a hard rubber ball contributed by someone else to play catch or anti-I-over the schoolhouse (hoping the less accurate throwers would not smash a window during the game).

In a rural school where all grades were represented, the older pupils turned the big skipping rope for others to 'run in' to the rhyme

Isabella, dressed in yella  
Went to town to meet her fella.  
How many kisses did she get?

Each hopeful athlete ran in aiming to get many kisses determined by the number of times he jumped over the rope. The first one to trip, was "out", and had to turn the rope for the others. Many other variations of the skipping rope game, such as "salt, vinegar, mustard, pepper", "turn to the east, turn to the west, turn to the one you love best", jumping double ropes, and the like, developed agility and leg muscles. Other group games played were: Pomp, Pomp, Pullaway; Prisoners' Base; London Bridge, Drop the Handkerchief, Farmer in the Dell, etc.

Early baseballs were created by wrapping string around a small rubber ball until it approached correct baseball size, and then sewing on a covering of old leather. The bat was hewn out of a poplar pole. Even though the equipment was primitive, the boys honed their skills at pitching and batting.

The open ditch with its six feet of water beside the

road was another source of activity. In summer youngsters fished in it for minnows, or "accidentally" pushing an unsuspecting girl into it clothes and all. Often a corner of the classroom was cordoned off as a drying area for the apparel of a victim of a soaking. Another sport of the boys was pouring water down one end of a gopher burrow, and then dashing to the other end to capture the poor half-drowned animal.

Having no skates nor rink to skate upon, winter sport consisted of skateless hockey in which the players batted and chased a frozen sardine can or similar object around the field with whatever sticks or clubs they happened to have. Another winter sport for the school playground was Fox and Geese. For this a large circle with spokes extending from the outer circumference to the centre was stamped out in the deep snow. In the centre was a small circular cleared space where the "geese" huddled. The fox ran around the outside wheel and attempted to catch any of the geese as they ventured forth down the spokes to the circumference of the wheel. If anyone was touched by the fox before he could retreat back up a spoke, he was "out". The game progressed until all geese were caught. The last one in the centre was fox for the next game.

Rural Schools of the time seem to be patterned from the same blueprint. They were rectangular boxes of frame construction encased in fir siding, painted white, usually with green trim around the three or four windows on either side of the building. Finally there was a wooden 8' by 10' platform on which the children scraped their feet before entering the single doorway to the interior. Other outdoor buildings in the setting were two cubicles, one labelled "Boys", and the other "Girls". Inside, for double occupancy, were two oval-shaped apertures, one large and one small to accommodate the varying sizes of the children. The only other equipment provided by these conveniences was squares of Eaton's Catalogue impaled on a spike inside the door for use as needed.

Inside the school on the rear wall were the hooks on which coats, toques, and mitts were hung. The walls and base of the chimney were of lath and plaster painted white. The ample window sills were usually stained and varnished. Storm windows for winter were not used. So wind blew through the cracks, and Jack Frost made beautiful traceries on the windowpanes in sub-zero weather.

School furnishings were few and very simple. At the rear was a table just large enough for the 2½ gallon pail of water and dipper, the common wash basin, and soap container with its carbolic cake of Lifebuoy. Equidistant from either side of the room but somewhat closer to the entrance was the flat-



topped two-lidded barrel-bellied wood stove. Extending upward and forward from it were innumerable stove pipes reaching the brick chimney at the front wall. These stovepipes supported at frequent intervals with stove-pipe wire attached to the ceiling, supplied a fair amount of heat to the icy classroom in winter, and unless taken down and cleaned out at least once a year, accumulated enough soot inside them to become ignited by a roaring fire from the stove below. The fuel was entirely wood. There was the finely cut dry kindling, prepared each night to start the fire in the morning. There was also the sizzling green poplar, balm, or pine logs to be added during the day to provide a slower heat. The flat top of the stove was useful to thaw out children's lunches often carried in a Gainers' or a Swifts' 3-pound lardpail, and also to de-ice the ink bottles or the water pail frozen during the night.

At the front of the classroom, there was usually a small platform 6 inches high for the teacher's "desk" — a small table with one central drawer for her most sacred tools, the school register, and a rubber correction strap! On top of the table was the very important hand bell, rung by the teacher to summon the children in and out 8 times during the day. On the wall above the teacher's podium was the faithful 8-day clock, the Union Jack, and colored print of Queen Victoria, or King Edward VII, or King George V, placed there, no doubt, to inspire punctuality, patriotism, and respect for Royalty. On a shelf nailed to the wall were two or three reference books for the teacher, one or two library books for each grade represented in the school, a large dictionary, and a copy of *Weeds of Alberta* with a few color-plates which fascinated children who had never seen the weed described nor had the experience of viewing a colored picture. The chalkboards small and black were placed on the wall behind the teacher's station.

The pupils' desks were often a queer assortment, many homemade. The set-up for beginners was a composite affair consisting of desk-top and seat large enough to allow four small children to sit side by side. Double desks were used by all other students, and it mattered very little whether or not the students fit the desk, or liked the person with whom he shared accommodation. It was a case of economy and convenience.

The chores were usually performed by one of the older boys attending the school, who had to be up and at it early in the morning to lay the fire to get the school thawed out, fetch the pail of drinking water, place a pile of firewood beside the stove, and, perhaps, sweep the floor or clean the blackboards. For this service, probably, he was paid \$1.00 per month. The lady who contracted to clean the building thor-

oughly twice a year received a total of \$5.00 for her labor!

By health standards of the '80s, children attending these country schools would have been an endangered species; those of the early 1900s drank water from the common dipper, washed in the same hand basin, and learned from the meager materials available. There were few illnesses, and, other than occasional outbreaks of pediculosis (commonly called head lice), no epidemics. Perhaps the rugged routines and Lifebuoy soap were responsible.

Because the one-room schools were all so similar in appearance and operation, the writer has given a general picture of them. Now, however, brief histories of seven of them will be presented. Most of these were in use before the hamlet of Clyde came into being. Hence for five or so years the Village children walked to the already established schools, first to Dungannon, two and a half miles distant, and later to Clyde School one and a half miles away.

#### **Dungannon School #1461**

Dungannon, the first rural district was established February 23, 1906, and, on April 24th of that year, borrowed \$800.00 for the purpose of building and furnishing the school house. The site was on the N.E. corner of N.E. ¼-60-25-W4., presently occupied by Neilsen's Modern Livestock Auction Mart of Clyde. The late Henry Meyer and Dan Erdman farming in the district had the contract for building the school, and the carpenters who did the work were "Uncle" Hank Meyer, and Dan Erdman. The Senior trustee was Alfred Parton, and the other Board members were Fred Meyer and Charles Nelson.

The first teacher was Alex McGregor who had his teacher training certificate from Ontario. Some of his first pupils were: Alfred, Doug, and Isabel Parton; Henry, Freddie, Lizzie and Julia Meyer; Abe, Albert, Louis, and Harold Nelson; Victor and Louis Nyblood. At later periods Victor, Alice and Ellen Nelson; Gerald Breadner; Alvina and Annie Meyer; Walter Parton, Olive Green, Madeline Nickerson, Elmer Edgson, Marion Lendrum, Violet Taylor, Bill Logan and Frances Hobart attended.

Most of the children walked to school. But, at times, the Partons had a unique mode of transport. Their father rigged up a cart which was powered by a Holstein ox. Doug Parton says that, with the right motivation these long-legged animals can attain fair amount of speed! Olive Green rode her Shetland pony the 3½ miles from her home to school — much to the envy of some of the walking less-fortunates. Olive recalls a catastrophe. During the spring clean-up of 1920, the pupils set a grass fire which got away from them and burned the school barn used for the children's horses. Fortunately the horses were res-



cued. The barn, a total loss, was never rebuilt because the District was about to enter consolidation with Clyde.

Other teachers at Dungannon included Aaron Roddick whose lengthy teaching career took him to many schools. He was the first teacher at Poplar Knoll. Later he taught at Pibroch, Hallach, Nestow, Linaria, Jarvie and Scanlan. In addition to his lengthy teaching career, he farmed at Larkspur. He died at the age of 99!

He was followed at Dungannon by Harold Tanner who later joined the Armed Forces of World War I, and was fortunate enough to come back to be Principal of Stettler High School for many years. Later, until his retirement, he was Principal of Strathcona High School in Edmonton. Another illustrious teacher at Dungannon was Winnie Martin, a former Captain of the world famous Commercial Grads basketball team. As well as pursuing her teaching skills, she interested her students in basketball and other sports.

With the coming of the railroad, settlement in the Village of Clyde was booming in 1911-1912. For some years there was no school in the hamlet. Hence, children walked the 2½ miles to Dungannon. Mr. Price, who was section foreman on the newly constructed C.N.R. to Clyde had a large family. Frequently he would give rides on the "speeder" or the handcar to his children and any of the neighbors school-bound. This ride north down the railway track was the thrill of a lifetime, and shortened the walking distance to school by 1½ miles. The riders, however, were warned that if a train came in sight, they were to jump off the slowing vehicles, and hit for the bush beyond the railroad property lest Mr. Price be called to task for using C.N.R. conveyances for non-C.N.R. purposes. So far as is known this crisis never occurred, and the children remember the rides as joyous adventures.

#### **Clyde School District #1741**

During late 1913 and early 1914, many parcels of land in and around the Village of Clyde were withdrawn from the Dungannon District and added to the Clyde District #1741 which had been established on December 26, 1907, and had been in operation since 1908. The original senior trustee was Robert Donald, and the other two Board members were Dave Walks and Charlie Erickson. The treasurer was W. H. Jack (with an annual salary of \$20.00). The building located 1½ miles East of Clyde, on what was later Andrew Donald's farm, was constructed by Charles Nelson.

Most teachers at that time held Second Class Certificates, having completed Grade XI, and having attended Normal School for one year. Their pay was



1925-26 Clyde High School students and principal. Standing, L to R: Mildred Stephenson, Elsie Burdick, Marion Bishop, Russell Sterling, ?, Lorna LaForge, ?, Maimie Fostvelt, Audrey Hensen, Keith Brownell, Clyna Morin, Hattie Warren, Irene Carew, ?, Frances McLean. Seated: Juliette Morin, Blair McLean, Lloyd Staples (Principal), Rene Chamberlain, Walter Duggan, Murad Morin, Henri Dusseault.

usually around \$50.00 per month. The first teacher at Clyde School #1741 was Miss Daly, a relative of the old time Clover Bar mine owners. She was succeeded by Bert Patullo, one of the British Columbia Putullos for whom the Putullo Bridge in Vancouver is named. Somewhat later, "Professor" Wortman, wearing a neatly trimmed Van Dyke beard, and having the courtly manners of an earlier generation, taught the "3 Rs" with marked success. He was followed by Mr. McCormick, Mr. Smith, and Mr.



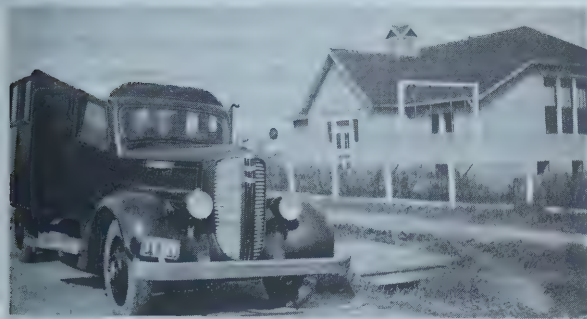
Kathleen Olsen (MacLachlan), and Madeline Nickerson (Labbrie). In the background is Tom Williams house, one of the oldest in Clyde.

Gordon Thurston who later taught at Bouchard during summers when he was not attending University. He subsequently obtained his degree in Dentistry, and practised in Edmonton until his retirement. Mr. Thurston was a strict disciplinarian, but is also remembered for many acts of kindness. One of these was his giving Andrew and Ed Donald the day off so that they could go into the Village to bid farewell to their brothers, George and Robert on their way to the



Front in World War I. Robert was one of the unfortunate ones who did not return.

Another University student who taught during the summertime was Miss Greta Playter who later received her Law degree, and subsequently married Stanley Tobin, a well-known Edmonton lawyer and member of the Alberta Legislature. She was followed by Miss Mabel Yates who conducted school there until she and the school population moved to the Village of Clyde in 1918.



Clyde school bus operated by Mr. Fred Fricker for many years. The Clyde Consolidated School #67 in background.

Some of the earliest pupils to attend in the rural setting were: Florrie, George and Johnny Jack; Simon, James, Ruth and Dagmar Carlson; Lily, Charlie, Albert, Victor, Signe and Selma Erickson; Robert, George, Andrew and Edward Donald; Gus, Frank, Eddie, Willie and Agnes Donnelly; Adeline Jamieson; Paul and Frank Cain; children of the only Indian family in the district — Margaret, Caroline and Jimmie Geroux; From the Village were Albert and Janet Savage; Henry, Carl and Irene Ranch; Walter, Clovis and Sarah Swatfigure; Marcella and Louella Hubert; Mabel, Hazel, Elmer and Teddy Price; Kathleen Olsen; Dorothy McKee; Margaret Groombridge; Hazel and Della Jaquith.

After a favorable vote of the ratepayers, Miss Yates, the students and furniture were moved into Clyde Village. As there was no suitable building to accommodate this shift, the School Board rented the second floor dance hall above the vacant co-op store from Mrs. Olsen who owned the three story structure at that time. For the next year and a half this was the home of the Clyde School. Mr. J. J. LeBlanc of Edmonton was official trustee, while Mr. H. Savage, and Mr. J. M. Salisbury successively were secretary-treasurers.

Miss Esther Steves was appointed teacher on December 17, 1917. It may be remembered that Miss Steves, as a patriotic gesture, trained the boys and girls to march down the street to the railway station to welcome home the "boys" returning from World



Clyde High School 1956. Back row: L to R: Ron Kujala, Norman Johnson, Howard Ringstad, Don Williams, Dennis Nelson, Lester Bishop, Richard Chevalier, Henry Bernieki, Tim Gabert. 2nd Row: Ben Gabert (Principal), Josephine Baier, Gail von Lowenstein, Verna Olsen, Joyce Kinsman, Rosalie Cunningham, Iris Bishop, Lorraine Destruel, Violet Round, Louise Round, June Brandel, Orlean Patry, Kathleen MacLachlan (Vice-Principal). 3rd Row: Stella Slupek, Agnes Currie, Joan Samis, Charlotte Berneiki, Barbara Nelson, Corinne Langford, Delores Newcombe, Jean MacLachlan. Front row: Maurice Lewis, Ted Broulette, Norman W., Peter Knittle, Bob Brandel.

War I. Each double column of pupils carried a Union Jack and school-crafted banner saying "Welcome Home" to the returnees as they descended to the platform from the C.N.R. After appropriate greetings, the column of pupils marched back to school, proud that they had been part of a culmination of a world-wide event. Some young men returning were Carman Breadner, Albert Nelson, George Donald, Alf Parton, Doug Parton, George Beaton, Buckley Ferguson, George Millar, and W. H. Jack.

#### Violet Hill School

Violet Hill School District #1903 was established November 28, 1908. Senior trustee at that time was Luther Hill of Clyde. On February 17, 1909, the District borrowed \$800.00 for the purpose of building, furnishing, and equipping a school house. The building was located on the N.W. corner of 15-59-25-W4, presently owned by Bob MacLachlan. The first teacher was Miss McKinley, followed by Miss Leake, and later Miss Magee who became Mrs. Frank Nichols.

Some early pupils at the school were: the Aquins, Clara, Adel, Louise and Victor; The Marshalls, Sadie, Angus, and Tina; Larry McCauley; Myra and Hughie Gibson; the Fortiers, Blanche, Albreda and Juliette; Ed Sabourin; Mae Cannard; Leonard and Guy Clesson.

Although teachers' salaries were a meagre \$50.00 per month, money was scarce, and many rural schools had difficulty in operating. Violet Hill



was one of these. Another neighboring district, Clover Valley was having similar problems. So the Boards and ratepayers decided to combine their resources and hold school in a location accessible to the students of both schools. The location decided upon was the Duke of Sutherland's farm.

For the first term classes were held in the milk house which was painted white, and termed "The White School". Somewhat later, a red granary on the premises was used, and fittingly known as the "Red Schoolhouse".

Some of the teachers employed in this set-up were Miss Vera Steele, Mr. Fred Lynn, Mr. Tosh Davis, Mr. W. Tracy.

Among the students attending at this time were: Margaret and Robert Tainsh; Rae, Rita, Russell, and George Sterling; Adel and Victor Aquin; George, Marguerite and Doris Hoke; Mae Cannard; Clarence, Pearl, and Borden Reid; Myra and Hughie Gibson; Juliette and Clyna Morin; Cecile Houle; Albreda Fortier; Raymond and Elsie Johnson; Lorne and Audrey LaForge.

### **Consolidation**

As school populations in general tended to increase, many districts "consolidated". After several meetings of ratepayers airing the pros and cons of a union, on October 20, 1919, Clyde Consolidated School District was approved by the vote of Dungannon and Violet Hill School Districts to consolidate with Clyde to form Clyde Consolidated School District #67. Mr. J. M. Saisbury was Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Mr. Gordon Tainsh represented Violet Hill, and Mr. James Green was the Dungannon representative. Mr. Wm. Cunningham was the Secretary-Treasurer.

School opened January 5, 1919, with Mr. Hardy Aldridge as Principal at a salary of \$1,200.00 per annum; and Miss Alma Hyde as Primary Teacher at a salary of \$1,000.00 per annum. As the new school had not yet been built, classes were still held on the second floor of the previous Clyde Co-op building with a curtain.

In the pre-snowplow times, it was necessary to provide horse-drawn vans to bring the children from their respective districts. Mr. Parton was appointed to bring in the Dungannon students; Mr. T. Coley to bring in the 5 families from North of Clyde; and Wylie Tainsh had the Violet Hill route. The School District bought canopies and footwarmers for the Parton and Tainsh vehicles. By May 15, 1920, the Clyde Cons. School Board had purchased its first two trucks and boxes to be converted into school buses. Mr. George Beaton was to drive the west route, and Mr. W. H. Jack had the tender for the east route, each for \$2.50 per day for their services as

drivers. It might be mentioned that the buses did not go into every farm yard to gather the pupils. They were picked up at certain convenient road points to which it was not uncommon for a youngster to have to hike on foot a mile or more. In winter this could be pretty rugged.

By May of 1920, many things were happening regarding the expanding school system. Mr. Roger Donnelly was hired to move in the Dungannon School for a third classroom. Miss M. E. Hall was hired as the third teacher. The School Board borrowed in excess of \$12,000.00 for the erection of the new building, the drilling of a deep well, the purchase of land for the school site, and the moving and repairing of Dungannon School. The new school building, erected on the 10-acre site purchased from the Northern Development Company, was inadequate in the size from day one. Consolidated School plans of the period all seem to have been cast in the same mould: two classrooms and a small science room at the rear. The basement was to house the furnace, and also to provide two playrooms for the children. The whole set-up was financed to provide minimum convenience at an absolute basic cost to the struggling ratepayers. What evolved was a headache to all who had to cope with the building. Economy in the quantity of cement used resulted in leaky playrooms; and the overpopulated classrooms had to be supplemented in the first year of operation by the Dungannon rural school being used as a third classroom!

The new school was ready in the December of 1920. Teachers hired for the beginning of the 1921 term were: Mr. H. C. Aldridge, principal; Miss M. E. Hall, Intermediate teacher; and Miss Marjorie McKee, Primary teacher. For the winter months horse-drawn rigs were still used. Seemingly, the drivers were paid according to the distances covered. Mr. Coley got \$2.35 per day; Mr. Sam Swatfigure \$3.00 per day; and Mr. C. B. Davis \$4.00 per day. Mr. W. H. Jack, the Secretary-Treasurer received \$200.00 per year.

The fall term of 1921 brought two staff changes. Mr. Dave Turner was employed as Intermediate teacher, and Miss Clara Kjos as Primary teacher. Mr. J. Workman was hired as janitor at \$30.00 per month, and Mr. Jim Beaton and Mr. George Beaton were the motor bus drivers. With Mr. Aldridge at the head of the English-History department, and Mr. Turner as Math-Science Instructor, the senior students progressed upward through the Departmental Examinations to the end of Grade XI. In 1923 the first graduates were Albert Savage and Madeline Nickerson. Albert became an elevator manager, and Madeline went to Camrose Normal School to become a teacher.



The 1923-24 year had an entirely new teaching staff. Mr. L. A. Russell was Principal: Mr. George Robertson was Intermediate teacher, and Miss Grace Thompson was Primary teacher. There was also a new School Board: Mr. H. W. Nickerson, Chairman, with Mr. Jack Taylor and Mr. B. Bishop as the other members.

Two years later, another change in staff saw Mr. Lloyd Staples as Principal, Mr. A. E. Thornton, Intermediate, and Kathleen Olsen as Primary teacher. The next year, Mr. Smith replaced Mr. Staples as Principal, and Miss Margaret Allen, was added to the staff as Primary teacher, making a four-teacher set-up, a third room having been created out of the science space in the main school building. The following year, with the resignation of Mr. Thornton, Kathleen Olsen "moved up" to teach Grades VI, VII, and VIII, and Miss Chisholm was added to the staff to teach Grades III, IV, and V.

In 1928 two more full sized classrooms were added to the north of the main school building, giving a total of five rooms in one unit. Unfortunately the basement was not extended below the new rooms, each of which had to be heated with the popular jacketed Waterbury coal heater in one corner of the room. Three new members joined the staff, Mr. Maurice Sanderson became Principal. Miss Gertie Hood taught Grades II and III, and Miss Eleanor Hall replaced Miss Allen as Primary teacher.

It is interesting to note that when Mr. Jimmy Wright became Principal in 1932, he requested the School Board to be allowed to teach Grade XII in the school. After due consideration the Board gave their permission subject to two conditions, viz: that it was to be on a trial basis only, and that students attending school for Grade XII instruction could ride on the school buses only if there was ample room for them, but otherwise, they must provide their own transportation! The trial run was a success, and later, the School Board's decision mellowed to allow full riding privileges to the students. From this time until 1962 when Clyde Consolidated Senior High School was transferred to Westlock District #37, Grade XII was continuously and successfully taught at Clyde.

The original Clyde Consolidated School constructed in 1920 was demolished, and the Dungannon one-roomer which had served in turns as a high school, a primary room, a library, and later as a skating rink club-house for the school children finally came to rest at Dapp.

### **Principals**

To chronicle all teachers who were employed on the Clyde School staff is beyond the scope of this brief history. However, it may be of interest to mention the Principals who guided the ship of state from

1932, who all attained University Degrees, usually by Summer School or Evening Classes route, and who became well known educators in their own rights. These include: Jim Wright, W. Pilkington, W. Nicholson, Ken Dane, Ed Nepstad, Geoff Mealing, Ben Gabert, H. Ross, and Ed Piere. During their tenures, the school graduated students who attended the University or who pursued courses in other professional fields.

### **Graduates**

It is difficult to remember all the high school students who graduated from Clyde Consolidated School. Some academic fields, and the students who attained professionalism in them follow.

Law: Lloyd Chamberlain

Chiropractic: Herb Taylor

Optometry: Cecil Rowland

Pharmacy: Walter Rowland, Edward Coley

Electronics: Elwood Stephens, Donald Williams

Aviation: Pilots — Ray Nelson, Walter Green, Stanley Warren

Doctor of Medicine: Blair McLean, Marion Nelson

Nursing: Lily Sjostrom, Marjorie Hobart, Marion Robinson, Clara Hess, Edna Hess, Eleanor Samis, Dorothy Jones, Ruby Jones, Joyce Kinsman, Vicki Nelson, Shirley Main, Gail Von Lowenstein, Arlene Siegle

Forestry: Carl Ranche

Secretaries: Edith Groombridge, Patricia Groombridge, Winnie Groombridge, Lillian Groombridge, Jean Cunningham, Dorin Lucia, Agnes Munn, Peggy Berwick, Hazel Olsen, Edith Stubbs, Margaret East, Agnes Donald, Doris Dagg, Orlean Patry, Stella Slupek, Rita Slupek, Audrey Henson, Alberta Wood, Dorothea Turner, Doreen Turner, Mary Fricker, Eunice Nelson, Shirley Nelson, Jessie Dempster, Arliss Aultman, Ruth Burdick, Judy Olsen, Florence Round, Louise Round

Home Economists: Margaret Nickerson, Helen Robinson, Doris Davies

District Agriculturists: Bob Jack, John Groombridge, Glen Jones

Engineers: Henry Bernecki, Mike Megas, Terry Gibson, Earl Moffat

Business Administrator: Colin Tainsh

Teachers: Madeline Nickerson, Kathleen Olsen, Bessie Bell, Russell Sterling, Elsie Burdick, Marion Bishop, Janet Savage, Juliette Morin, Clyna Morin, Walter Duggan, Mildred Stephensen, Margaret Groombridge, Sam Wishloff, Lillian Heywood, Roy Taylor, Hazel Larplas, John Yaremko, Lloyd Chisholm, Jean Chisholm, Amelia Ringstad, Iona Munn, Jean MacLachlan, Verna Olsen, Glenis Nash, Anne



Dagg, Hattie Warren, Dick Harris, Maxine Kinsman, Jack Dvinski

Graduate in Nursing Technology (SAIT): Agnes Kennedy

While not all students graduated from High School, dozens of them turned to the trades to become skilled artisans. They provided the Agricultural School graduates, clerks, hairdressers, mechanics, salespeople, elevator managers, highway engineers, bank tellers, farmers, and homemakers who are the backbone of the country.

### Some Recollections and Reflections

From the turn of the century to about 1912, the slate, constructed of a brittle composition of polished slate, and the accompanying slate pencil of similar material were the equipment of junior school grades. The "sums", spelling lists, and the like were scratched upon these media which varied in size from 8" x 12" to 12" x 16". When several children were scratching on them at the same time, the noise sent shivers down one's spine. As the slate pencils wore down, it was necessary to sharpen it, which was usually done by one of the bigger boys using his jackknife to produce the desired point. A dexterous "sharpener" could put tips on the pencils very useful as skewers or prods when not employed as writing instruments! To clean the slates, each student supplies himself with a small bottle of water, a smear of soap and a rag, often a bit of Dad's Penman underwear. If he had forgotten his cleaning kit, the youngster usually spat on his slate and distributed it with his sleeve. Mostly boys did this. The slate could also be used as a weapon of combat. Many a dispute was settled with a smart bash on the head from a slate. It must have been a tremendous relief to teachers when paper became more available and slates disappeared from the classrooms. Discipline has not always been a "dirty" word. In fact in the early schools, a teacher's merit was judged by the discipline he exercised over his students. Whispering during school hours was strictly forbidden, and pupils transgressing this rule were punished by forfeiting recesses or writing lines after school. For the most part parents were totally in agreement with having their children brought into line in this way.

The discipline idea was very strong in the minds of World War I veterans. Many returnees entered the teaching profession. Their Phys Ed programs tended to be quite militaristic. Assuming the air of drill sergeants, they directed their students, especially the older ones, in formal arm, head, knee, and foot exercises performed in unison to the crisp commands of the teacher. It was not uncommon to see a class out in the school groups "falling in" forming fours, wheeling, dressing to the left or right, forming single

files, double files, and "falling out", always marching "left, right", and woe betide the youngster who did not know his left foot from his right! The caustic comments from the teacher would rival those of any army drill sergeant. Also, children lined up, usually in twos, to march into their classrooms in the morning, after each recess break, and at dismissal. Listening to and heeding instructions was considered part of a child's education.

### Buses

Early Ford school buses need special mention. For the most part they were purchased as bare trucks which later had box-like vans added with canvas side-flaps, rolled down to keep out the chilling breezes of autumn, and rolled up for air conditioning in summer. In the interior on either side and down the centre were long bench-like seats from the cab to the rear. The passengers sat, facing each other in close or distant proximity depending upon the density of the load. There was no anti-freeze, and in sub-zero weather the radiators had to be drained at night, and re-filled with the water the next morning (hand pumped from the school well). This brings to mind an anecdote about Jim Beaton who was a driver of one of these vehicles. It seems that he had been late with his bus a few times, and so was called upon by the trustees for an explanation. In his defence he said:

"How can a man get in on time? I have to go to the school well at 5 a.m. to get water to fill the radiator. I prime the pump, and then it takes 200 strokes by hand to bring water up, and then it is only a trickle not enough to baptize a fairy". With this explanation he was exonerated.

In winter, before the advent of paved roads, horse-drawn vehicles were still used. However, one enterprising youngster, Elmer Edgson, trained his Collie dog to sled use, and he often arrived at school via dog sled, much to the envy and admiration of other students.

To combat waiting in the cold for the school bus, Jim Green had a unique system. His buildings were at the far west side of his quarter, ½ a mile from the school bus route. Being considerate of how cold his children might get waiting for the bus, he built them a cubicle close to the gate so that the youngsters would at least have shelter from the wintry blasts. A visitor, seeing this neatly painted little building mistook it for the biffy, and remarked to the Greens that it seemed a long way for them to have to go from their house to the toilet!

### Caretakers

Caretakers of schools are the salt of the earth. They have to turn out early in the mornings, rain or snow, to start the heating systems for the comfort of teachers and students. In the early days of central



heating by coal, there were buckets of ashes to be removed daily, often up a flight or two of stairs. The schoolroom floors were usually of fir with copious cracks between the boards. To keep the dust down, quantities of sweeping compound redolent with creosote were used during the sweeping process, and, twice annually the floors were treated with a coating of fairly thick smelly oil. The huge windows with their multiple small panes had to be cleaned at least twice a year. Fortunately, the caretaker often had a family among whom he could assign the sweeping of classrooms. These young people were always happy, probably singing or whistling to the strokes of the broom. At all times, the cleaning staffs were considerate, and postponed their work until after conscientious exam-marking teachers had gone home.

If an emergency arose, if an extra bucket of water was needed, if a broken coat-hanger had to be replaced, if an extra-mural class activity was planned, the caretaker was there to accommodate, and always with a cheerful smile!

### **Exemplary Teachers**

While most Clyde teachers did a creditable job imparting knowledge and instilling desirable attitudes into their students, it seems appropriate to commend some whose special talents and skills will always be remembered by those who were privileged to have been tutored by them.

One of the earliest of these was Alma Hyde who was sports minded, and introduced basketball to the eager teenagers who had never seen a basketball. The equipment she had to work with was a couple of home-made standards with hoops fashioned by the local blacksmith. The court was outdoors on a standard-size rectangle of ground with the odd hummock which made dribbling the ball a bit unpredictable. Nevertheless, this spot was the best pastime the players could imagine. Alma taught them the rules, and played with them. In the first game between Clyde and Westlock, she was on the team and it won!

The Clyde School was indeed fortunate in having the services of Dave Turner for two years. He was a young Math-Science teacher and a born football and basketball player. He coached football teams, basketball teams, instructed in track and field techniques in sprinting, high jump, pole vault, and shot-put. It is not surprising that after he graduated from the University of British Columbia, he was named Canada's outstanding athlete, and as such has his name placed in the Hall of Fame. Later he became Minister of Recreation and Culture in the Bennett Government.

The teacher who contributed greatly to the academic achievements of his students was Hardy Aldridge. He governed the classroom with undisputed discipline, and seemed to interpret the curriculum

with accuracy. In those days, when Grade VIII wrote Departmental Examinations, a Governor-General's Medal was awarded to the student obtaining the highest over-all score in each Inspectorate in the Province. It is to Aldridge's credit that in three consecutive years a student of his received the coveted medal. The winners were: Bob Tainsh in 1920; Kathleen Olsen in 1921; and Bessie Bell in 1922.

Another teacher who did much to promote sports was Elsie Burdick. She coached basketball teams, and took them to the Edmonton Exhibition to compete in tournaments to compete against other rural teenager teams. She also coached softball teams both for the Intermediate school and for the High School to compete against other teams in the school division. In addition to her athletic prowess, she was a talented Art teacher who was able to make most of her Art students turn out creditable pictures and murals, taking many awards at school competitions and Agricultural Fairs.

One staff member who contributed much to the musical endeavors was Irene Hamley whose knowledge of piano made her services in great demand in the community. She prepared pupils for both practical and technical examinations for the Toronto Conservatory. She was always a willing and accomplished accompanist for vocalists in most of the local concerts and social gatherings.

The teacher making the most lasting impact on her pupils in Clyde was Miss Eleanor Hall. In addition to her services as a Wren in World War II, she launched the Grade I'ers on their school careers for more than 40 years. In some cases she taught the second generations. She had a particular knack in teaching beginners to read. It is assumed that a child first entering school knows nothing of the formal mechanics of "Readin', Writin', and Rithmetic". So what he knows at the end of the first year is attributable to the skill of his primary teacher. Those passing through Miss Hall's hands usually became proficient in all three areas. In addition to supplying their academic needs, she was a daily playground supervisor of their games. In winter, she mittied, scarved, overshod them, and led them to the schoolbus steps to ensure their safe journey home. The new school building, named The Eleanor Hall School is a fitting tribute to her dedication.

### **Inspectors**

School Inspectors were the terror of most teachers' existences. Once in the Fall and once in the Spring, these representatives of the Department of Education made their surprise appearances in each schoolroom sending the teacher in charge into a state of shock. During his half-day with the teacher, he gathered information from the school register as to



the number of pupils, their attendance, lateness, and total days school was operating. For half of his sojourn, he observed the teacher as she tremblingly instructed the kids; the other part of his stay he instructed the class in his own particular field, be it English, Science, Math, History or Geography. His observations and conclusions were carefully tabulated on a Report which he later mailed to the teacher, copies of which were sent to the Department of Education, and to the School Board. These men had unerring ability to spot the weakest child in the class, and direct questions to him, that, of course, he was unable to answer. This would be indicated on the report as an area in which the teacher should devote more attention. As if he wasn't already doing so! The total estimate of the teacher was put in the appropriate little box at the end of the report: P, F, F.G, G, or E. These reports were read to the taxpayers at the annual school meeting, and were conversation pieces among the parents, and often formed the basis of the teacher's regard in the community. With the coming of the larger units, the inspector was replaced by the Superintendent whose function is more advisory and lessens the stress in the present day classroom.

### School Boards

In early organizations, the school board members, usually three in number, headed by the chairman, had many responsibilities and considerable power. They borrowed money to establish a school, hired a contractor, struck a suitable mill-rate to finance operations, hired and fired teachers, and, finally, lent a sympathetic ear to the complaints of irate ratepayers. Clyde Consolidated S. D. #67 seems to have been blessed with particularly dedicated and long-suffering Board members. While it would be almost impossible to name all who served, two Boards with long tenures will be cited. H. W. Nickerson, elected Chairman in 1920, held office until his resignation in 1930. During that time Jack Taylor represented the Dungannon District, and Lyle McMillan the Violet Hill District. They suffered through the pains of an expanding school system from a two-room to a six-room set-up, with the resulting additions of classrooms.

The trustees serving the longest terms were P. G. Davies, Chairman, A. W. Nelson, and S. MacLachlan, members, elected in 1930. They served through the Depression years, dealing with salary cuts, unpaid ratepayer taxes, curtailment of school supplies, honoring of longer teacher contracts, and the complaints of problem-ridden teachers and parents. Stuart McLachlan served over 25 years, and Mr. Davies and Mr. Nelson over 30 years until the entrance of Clyde Consolidated School into the Westlock Division in 1962. In the larger unit, many

of the former Board duties were assumed by Superintendents, and each subdivision is now served by one member. Ken Round, the present Clyde representative has held office for 19 years.

### Veterans

World War II either interrupted or terminated the school careers of many students. In the following Honor Roll of those who served in the Armed Forces, 80% are former students of the schools in the Clyde area. It seems appropriate to give the Honor Roll in full so that many old friends who served may be remembered.

#### Army Veterans:

Anger, J.	Marshall, L.
Anger, L.	Maslanko, W.
Ashton, G.	McArthur, R. J.
Bell, A.	McAskill, A.
Bell, A. A.	McNelly, E.
Berwick, J.	Main, H.
Bowles, J. W.	Middlestead, B.
Brown, J. W.	Middlestead, M. M.
Brown, H.	Middlestead, G.
Broulette, D.	Mitchell, A. J. O.
Broulette, W.	Moore, J.
Campbell, C.	Munn, N.
Coley, T.	Nelson, A. E.
Davis, T. G.	Nichols, E.
Davis, R.	Nichols, N.
Delorme, J.	Prantner, J.
Devin, P.	Prantner, M.
Drake, S.	Pugh, W. A.
Edgson, C. V.	Rains, J.
Erickson, G.	Rains, G.
Fleese, A.	Ringuette, A.
Fleese, W.	Round, G.
Fricker, J.	Round, F.
Forbes, E.	Sampson, C.
Haley, G.	Sereda, W.
Harper, L.	Sereda, S. J.
Harper, R.	Shewchuk, J.
Harper, A.	Sawka, M.
Harris, R.	Strilchuk, N.
Hess, W.	Sjostrom, A. E.
Hill, G.	Toupin, R.
Hill, J.	Webber, A.
Hindle, J.	Wilson, G. R.
Hindle, J. Jr.	Wilson, H.
Hoogland, R.	Wilson, R.
Jendrick, L.	Workman, C.
Jeselon, H.	Workman, C.
Jones, L. D.	
Jones, J. M.	
Kirk, L. W.	
Kormendy, S.	
Kohluss, A. W.	
Kohburg, T.	
La Forge, L.	
Lister, E.	
Lumsden, R. A.	
Makaroff, F.	

Rowland, C.  
Rowland, W.  
Ward, J.

#### Air Force

Ashton, P.  
Bishop, D.  
Burdick, W.  
Berwick, D.  
Birks, G.  
Bowen, H. R.  
Bowen, A. W.  
Bowles, R.  
Broulette, F.  
Chitra, M.  
Coles, W. F.  
Cunningham, S.  
Cuthiel, J.  
Forbes, J.  
Gamsaiski, J.  
Haley, W.  
Hobart, D.  
Hobart, J. L.  
Hone, L.  
Humm, K.  
Kewko, E.  
Kirk, C.  
Marshall, A.  
Mayberry, M.  
Meston, J.  
McGillvary, G.  
Moncrief, H.  
Moore, J.  
Nickerson, J.  
Peavoy, E.  
Riapel, T.  
Riapel, L.  
Rogers, L. A.  
Round, E.  
Stephens, E. M.  
Schindeler, A.  
Strilchuk, J.  
Taylor, R. A.  
Toupin, K.  
Williams, T.  
Wilson, E. L.

#### Navy Veterans

Coley, E. C.  
Cooper, W.  
Egge, L.  
Jones, F.  
Mitchell, S.  
Moore, R.  
Round, H.  
Round, D.

### Womens' Division

Bishop, D. C.  
Clark, P.  
Dempster, J.

CWAC  
WRENS  
RCAF

Groombridge, L.	WRENS
Groombridge, M.	RCAF
Groombridge, W.	WRENS
Hall, E. B.	WRENS
Lewis, G.	CWAC
Mitchell, H.	CWAC
Pugh, D. I.	RCAF
Pugh, R. E.	CWAC

It may be remembered with pride that Ed. Coley who became President, Dominion Command Royal Canadian Legion had the honor of laying the Wreath on their behalf at the Remembrance Day ceremony at Ottawa on November 11, 1980.

### Island Lake School District #1819

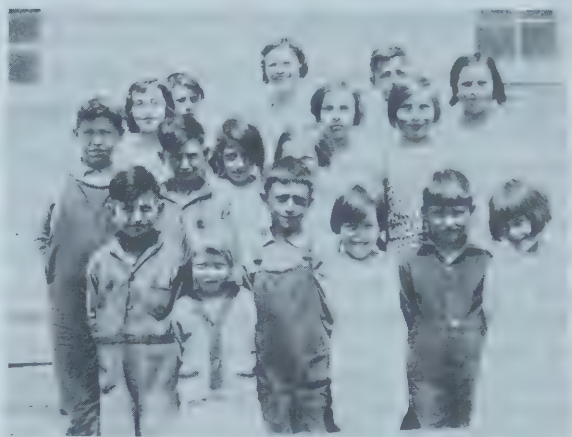
The Island Lake School was established May 28, 1908, and in October of the same year, the District borrowed \$750.00 for the purpose of improving the school site, building and equipping a school house, and sinking a well. Senior trustee at that time was Mr. William Baker. The contractor and builder of the school was Mr. Joe Baker. The site of the school was on the South East quarter of Section 16, Township 59, Range 24, W. 4, which was a high spot in the area. Some early snapshots taken in the Spring of the year show the school on more or less of an island surrounded by water. Hence the name Island Lake School District. However, it was popularly known as Jeffrey School arising from the nearby Jeffrey Post Office named after Jeffrey Garon, a pioneer farmer in the district.



Island Lake school children, 1932.

It is interesting to note that because a minimum attendance of 7 pupils was required, the local school board permitted Johnny Lynch to enter school before he reached the required school age so that there were the legal number to open the school. Not long afterwards, the expanding population kept the school well supplied. Some children attending were; the Lynch family, Mary, Johnny, Rose, Agnes, Katie, Lizzie, William, and Timmy; the Nigro family, William,

Monte, and Annie; the Moffats, Ken, Jack and Keith; Edna, Helen, and Edith Starr; Edward and Clarence Hess; Fred, Clara, and Irene Parent; Leo and Florence Garon; the Hess family, Ada, Joe, Martha, Alberta, Edna and Edward; Yvonne Parent; Lucien and Arthur Genest; Laurier Parent; Helen and Jean Beauchamp; the Pughs, Doreen, Rose, Ralph and Shirley; Jack and Lloyd Jones; Margaret, Effie, and Robert Lumsden; Nancy Sempowich; Leo and Della Rogers, Jim Williams.



Back row, L to R: Bob Lumsden, Catherine Redmond (teacher), Fred Parrent. 2nd row: Clara Parrent, Jean Beauchamp, Catherine Patry, Helen Beauchamp, 3rd row: Jack Jones, Telesphore ?, Doreen Pugh, Nancy Sempowich. Front: ?, Rose Pugh, Laurier Parrent, ? Pugh, Lloyd Jones, Irene Parrent.

During the 1920 year the School District borrowed a total of \$1,600.00 for the purpose of erecting a teacher's residence. In 1928, they borrowed a further \$1,500.00 to be used to remodel the old school and to purchase new furniture.

Some of the teachers employed at Jeffrey School were: Miss Nellie Smithman, Miss Ruth Boyce, Miss Mildred Williams, Mr. McLaughlan, Miss Pansey Sellick, Miss Bessie Bell, Mr. Roberts, Miss Cathie Redmond, and Mr. Hugh McDonald.

The employee with the longest term of office was Mrs. R. B. Williams who served as Secretary-Treasurer for a period of 26 years. She presently lives at Pembina Lodge, Westlock, and is an encyclopedia of knowledge regarding the history of Jeffrey District.

On December 30, 1954, the Island Lake School District was transferred to Westlock School Division #37, Subdivision #5. The School building was purchased by George Broulette, and moved across the road to his properties where it now serves as one of his barns.

### Poplar Knoll School District #1953

On March 24, 1909, the Poplar Knoll School



District #1953 was established, and on June 3rd of the same year, the District borrowed the sum of \$900.00 upon the security of the District for the purpose of constructing the school house and purchasing the necessary school furnishings. The building was contracted to Charles Nelson. Mr. Thomas Heywood, an accomplished bricklayer put in the foundation, and erected the brick chimney. The Treasurer at the time was Mr. Thos Heywood who had also been senior trustee at the time the District was formed. Some early members of the School Board were; Mr. Goodman, Mr. B. McAlpine and Mr. J. Ducharme.

Among the teachers employed at Poplar Knoll were: Miss I. Sheppy, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Manning, Miss Marjorie McQueen, Miss Gladys Speer, Mr. Dorsey, Miss D. McDonaugh, Miss A. McDonald, Miss Kathleen McAlpine, Miss Marion McDonell, Mr. J. Ducharme, Mr. E. Forsyth, Miss Leola Wallace, Mr. Richard Harris, Miss Dorothy Brown, Miss Julia Chernecki, Mrs. Anne England, Mrs. Irene Lewis, Mr. Fred Meleshko, P. Barancy, Enid Nicholson (Supervisor), Mrs. Anna Nicholson, Miss Elsie Parton, Miss Audrey Jorgensen, Mr. John Noel. From this chronology of teachers, Mr. Noel had the longest tenure of service, from 1950 to 1956, when the school was closed out permanently into Westlock Division #37.

During its lengthy period of operation, Poplar Knoll School had hundreds of pupils. Some of those remembered are; the Coles, Roy, Edie, Ernie, Fred, Ed, Nora, Bob and Carl; Winnie and Queenie Smallman; the Heywoods, Gladys, Gertie, Julia, Lillian, Violet and Rose; Ed Schmidt; Annie, Agnes and Alex Calderwood; the Lefevres, Aldemore, Evano, Yvette, Simonne, Rene, Fernando; Adolph LeBeau; the Ducharmes, Aime, Lawrence, Arthur, Edmond, Adelord; The LeBeaus, Irene, Lillian, Ruth David, Onda, Corrine, Amelia, Edmond, Aleda; Loretta McAlpine; Siegfried, Reinhold, Joe and William Huppertz, the Biggerman children.

Two noteworthy pupils of the School were Violet and Rose Heywood who, as well as being identical twins, were known far and wide for their performances of the Charlestan. At most local gatherings they were called upon to dance, and wearing their fringed dresses of the 1920s, always pleased their audiences. Rose Feist still instructs and performs at Senior Citizens' functions, and her son is a dance instructor and choreographer. Another performer who charmed audiences was Loretta McAlpine who was an accomplished step-dancer.

Through the years, boundaries of the District were often changed, and in 1939, the School entered the Pembina School Division. In 1947 the Division

was re-named Westlock Division #37, and the School remained under its authority until 1957 when the site and buildings were sold to Mr. Huppertz who now uses the building as a granary.

### **Bouchard School District #3369**

On May 29, 1916, the Bouchard School District #3369 was established, having purchased the Clyde District #1760 building which was moved to a location some six miles North and East of its original site. The official trustee at the time was Mr. J. P. Gosche, of Clyde.

From 1917, for the next 30 years, Bouchard operated as a rural school. Some of the teachers employed were: Mr. Gordon Thurston, Mrs. Ben Ashton, Miss Edna Bowen, Miss Margaret Groombridge, Mr. Fleetwood (Skinner) Bishop, Miss Dyllis Davies, Mr. Roy Taylor.

Among many pupils who attended Bouchard were: the Middlesteads, Ella, Guy, Ernie, Merle, Malloy, Bennie and Roy; Gordon and Thelma Sellick; Juliette and Bill Jeselon; John, Lucy, Mary-Lou, and Helen Tennant; Alfred Webber; Stella, John, Joe and Henry Jeselon; George Black; Clara Elsasser; the Jireaus, Ernie, John, Caroline, and Louise; the Rounds, Ken, Helen, George, Fred, Howard, Dorothy, Don, and Grace; Beatrice, Bob, and Shirley Jack.

In 1939, Bouchard was constituted into the Pembina School Division which, in 1947, became Westlock School Division #37. In March of 1949, the Bouchard School building was moved to Edison School District #1029 to replace their school which had been destroyed by fire. For the three years previous to this the pupils had been transferred to Clyde Consolidated School. In 1952, this much travelled Bouchard building made its last move to Dapp where it is presently located.

### **Gullion School**

On May 25, 1917, Gullion School District #3487 was established. On October 11, 1917, the site had been approved, being the S. W. ¼ of section 36, lying East of the Landing Trail in Township 59, Range 24, West of the 4th Meridian. The School's name derived from Johnny Gullion on whose land the building was located. The foundation stones were hewn by Mrs. Ella Davis's father, Carl Kerstein, a skilled stone mason farming in the district. He was also on the first school board whose other two members were Mr. John Hegardt, Senior Trustee, and Mr. Harry Churchill.

Some teachers employed by Gullion District were: Mrs. Wade, Mr. Hardy Aldridge, Mr. A. A. Aldridge, Mr. Pete Owen, Miss Doris Chapman, Miss Helen Cumberland, Mr. Fleetwood Bishop, Miss Caroline Baker, Miss Winnifred McBride, Miss



Gullion School pupils 1925. The Nugent children, Owen, Hugh, Mary and Sarah. The McNelly children, Thelma, Garth, Elmer and Lena. Pearl and Roy Davis.

Josephine Harbison, Miss Madeline Chapman, Mr. Chris Cherbaniuk, Miss Mary Puchalik, Miss Pauline Klapauschak, Miss Anne Puchalik, Mrs. Vera Starr, Miss Dorothy Webb, Mary V. Pundyk, Walter Begary, and Mrs. Elsie Marshall.

Many of the pupils who attended Gullion School are: The McNellys, Elmer, Garth, Lena, Thelma; Lawrie, Clifford and Frances Kelly; Leon Hills; Elsie and Harry Critchley; Wildie, Freddie and Wanda Davis; the Nugents, Sarah, Mary, Hugh and Owen; Pearl and Roy Davis; the Starrs, Doris, Violet and Irene; the Delormes, Norman, Josie, Alex and Jack; Eddie, Joe, Clara and Katie Hess; Roy Watt; Bill Starr. With changing district boundary lines, Gullion School was included in Sturgeon Division in 1939, then in Thorhild Division in 1947, and finally in Westlock Division in 1956, after which the pupils were bussed in to Clyde Consolidated School. Although the land was sold in 1960, the building, still standing on its original site is a rare symbol of the rural school of the past.

#### Acknowledgements

The preparation of this paper would have been impossible without dozens of interviews and telephone conversations and submissions of treasured snapshots. I hope any inaccuracies will be overlooked, and any omissions forgiven. The following persons have contributed their memoirs and anecdotes for which I give sincere thanks:

Isabel Crozier, Doug Parton, Olive Hope, Roy Taylor, Barbara Fricker, Bob Tainsh, Peggy Gibson,

Tessie Berry, Ed Donald, Andrew Donald, Jack Fricker, Vivian Nichols, Lillian Richards, Roy Cole, Nora Talley, Rosie Pommerlau, Malcolm McDonald, Edith Pugh, Irma Lyons, Cathie Redmond, Jim Williams, Caroline Preisery, Clara Sellick, Elsie Gosche, Ken Round, Walter Duggan, Brenda Gable, Ella Davis, Pearl Nelson, Garth McNelly, Walter Rowland, A. A. Aldridge.

An especial expression of appreciation goes to Jack Hobart who was a tower of encouragement and a source of reference throughout the writing of this material. His regional maps, local data, and snapshots make him a valuable historian in the Clyde community. Thank you, Jack!

#### Building Project at the Richard F. Staples School

After three years of planning and revising, the addition to the Richard F. Staples School is close to reality. The contract is to be let sometime in October in 1983 for the construction of a building which should prove to be one of the most interesting and modern high schools in Alberta.

Before describing the proposed addition, it may be interesting to review the events leading to the decision to rebuild the central wing of the school.

In 1951 a two-story, eight-room school was constructed on the present site of this school. By 1953, the building was far too small to accommodate the students and another eight-room addition was completed in 1954. This sixteen-room portion of the high school came to be known as the "Central Wing".

It was common at that time, for schools to be built for about \$100.00 a square metre. By using wood frame construction process and inexpensive building materials it was not difficult for the Westlock School Division to complete the project close to provincial support levels.

In the late 1970's Alberta Education introduced a program which came to be known as the Building Quality Restoration Program. Provision was made for the modernization of school buildings to meet current program needs of students and teachers. Other aspects of this program included energy conservation, upgrading to meet present building code requirements and improving the exterior for aesthetic reasons.

The Board of Trustees of the Westlock School Division completed the modernization of the Jarvie school in 1981 and at the same time were negotiating with the Buildings Branch of Alberta Education for a similar program for the "Central Wing".

Alberta Education engineers reported that this building was "structurally sound", in spite of faulty



foundations which caused the flooding of the basement. The local board decided to proceed with a modernization program. It was during this period that negotiations began with local interest groups in Westlock for a theatre addition to be built in conjunction with the modernization program.

When the cost estimates arrived from the board's architect, the Woolfenden Group, the costs of the modernization and the new theatre were considered to be too great in view of the fact that suitable teaching space was very difficult to provide within the confines of the "Central Wing". A further complication emerged when the Provincial Government announced a restraint program which meant that further funds would not be made available for the large number of modernization programs already submitted.

Almost immediately, the Board of Trustees asked Alberta Education for permission to demolish the central wing and to rebuild to better meet the needs of the school.

Upon review of the board's request, Alberta Education officials agreed to allow demolition and gave permission for a building program. Approval for a 250 student capacity building was obtained and funding assured for the project.

One of the regulations of Alberta Education states that schools of frame construction have a life expectancy of 35 years. This meant that the undepreciated portion of the building must be paid for through local taxation. As a result, some 200 square metres of the new building would not receive provincial funding. Nevertheless, the board passed a by-law approving the construction of a replacement building and instructed the architect to proceed with the plans and specifications for the new school.

Negotiations with the local Cultural Arts Society were reopened to look into the feasibility of resurrecting the theatre project in conjunction with the new construction.

After a few weeks of frenzied fund raising projects, some \$200,000.00 was soon available in addition to a matching grant of about \$190,000.00 through funds made available through provincial funding for cultural facilities in the Westlock area.

It was extremely gratifying to see the Town of Westlock come forward with up to \$75,000.00 toward the \$200,000.00 goal. The forward approach of Mayor Golonowski and his Town Council in guaranteeing funds for the project, has ensured that the project proceed and the theatre become a reality.

The Municipal District of Westlock exhibited interest and leadership by announcing a further loan guarantee of up to \$20,000.00 should that be necessary. Reeve Primeau and his council are to be con-

gratulated also for their interest in the theatre portion of the new building.

With this background information in mind, a description of the building project at the Richard F. Staples School is now in order.

Final plans call for a school to accommodate 250 students and included a 250 seat theatre.

The central feature of the building is a large lunch-study area complete with a conversation pit, seating area, kitchen and second story mezzanine area extending throughout the entire central portion of the school.

No longer will it be necessary for students coming from every corner of the division to eat their bag lunches in their classrooms or on the way downtown. A full lunch will be made available for students and staff on a daily basis.

A staff work room and staff lounge centrally located will bring students and staff together at both a formal and informal basis.

By utilizing corridors as instruction space, considerable efficiency should be the result. Natural lighting and the extensive use of glass should brighten the building considerably. An art laboratory and classroom should provide an art facility second to none in the province.

The board has planned for a 50 student drama theatre. Here is where the community input has made a real difference. Both the school and community will have a fully-equipped and modern 250 seat theatre through joint funding and joint use. Modern lighting and sound equipment will greatly enhance the opportunities for students and parents alike.

A television arts classroom will provide opportunities to extend the course offerings at the school and provide excellent vocational opportunities for students.

Three additional classrooms and a physics laboratory will provide other needed classroom space. The costs of construction have increased remarkably since 1951 when the original eight classrooms were completed. As was pointed out earlier, this section was built for about \$100.00 a square meter (\$9.00 a square foot). Provincial and federal regulations dictate that all measurements must be in line with the new metric requirements. Costs have now risen to about \$850.00 per square metre. The total estimated cost of construction is about \$2,635,000.00. Provincial funding will provide a large portion of this amount.

Upon completion of the addition in August of 1984, the students and residents of the Westlock School Division will have a high school that should be a credit to the residence, staff and Board of the Westlock School Division.

# The First Ten Years of The Old Brick School

by Les Brown

In my opinion one of the most clever students to ever graduate from Westlock School was George Crane. Not only was he clever but he gave the principal, teachers and janitor alike, a most difficult time with the pranks he would play.

During our high school days, the school had a second story room that was known as the science room. It had French windows that gave access to the roof. At noon hour one day, George took the water pail and dipper and lay out on the roof. His pal, Bill Patterson was out in the yard. George would hold a dipper of water over the edge and when he got the nod from Bill would dump it on the head of some unsuspecting student below. Mrs. Ostrich, our vice principal returned from lunch, wearing a very large brimmed straw hat. Bill naturally gave the signal and she got a full dipper of water.



Mr. LeBlanc, School Inspector, addressing people at the school opening, 1925.

One noon hour he took all the drawers from our desks and put them up on the roof. Other times, he would re-arrange the drawers to foul up the next class. Of course, he was helped by others in these tricks.

George Bauer, our principal, at this time, taught biology one class a week on Thursdays. One time we had a rabbit to dissect. Not completing the lesson, Bauer had us pour alcohol over the cut up rabbit to preserve it. It was then placed in a built-in cabinet that was vented through the chimney. The next day George removed the alcohol and filled it with hot water. At the next class, Bauer got the rabbit out and the whole thing was a putrid mess. Bauer never found out who it was, but I do know he had his suspicions.

George Crane later became a civil engineer, owned two firms in Toronto, and was involved at one time in the construction of dams in India. He died at an early age but he sure left a lot of memories among

his fellow students. Everything, mischievous or otherwise, he did to perfection.

Mr. Sims, the first janitor, was a bit eccentric in his ways. He used to live in a shack behind the school. In the door he had cut two holes and inside he had a half dozen cats. When I questioned once about the holes, he replied, "When I say scat I mean SCAT!"

He used to be quite inventive and was always making us things to amuse us. One time he mounted a wagon wheel on the top of a 14' pole. From each spoke hung a rope with two knots tied near the bottom. We used to grab these ropes and run in a circle similar to a Maypole. This was fine for awhile, but soon became a bit tame. Someone suggested we should let one person wind his rope over the others and we should all pull outwards. It worked marvelously and the outrider would be circling around almost level with the wheel, nearly fourteen feet in the air. Bob Selfridge was an outrider one day and the crew wouldn't stop when he got tired. He finally let go and he flew out over the fence and into the bush. Bob ended up with a broken leg. He had just got a new pair of boots and he cried when they had to cut them off.

During school construction in 1925, there were lots of piles of dirt around. In the late fall these froze and with the application of a few pails of water, they became excellent slides. One day, Harold Guest was sliding down on his stomach, one of the bigger kids decided to use him as a sleigh and landed right on Harold's head. For a good many days Harold went around with a big egg on his forehead.

The basement of the school was an excellent place for us in our later years. Teachers didn't care to go down there, as it was so dark and smelly. So we were able to use this for smoking and by opening the furnace door no one could detect cigarette smoke.

In science in those days, there were sixty-seven known elements. Mr. Bauer told us one of the most interesting was sodium. It would float or burn. "However," he continued, "if it is submerged entirely it becomes dangerous and will explode like a bomb!"

These were famous last words to an ingenious class. The next day we were able to get a big chunk of sodium from the laboratory. We wrapped it very thoroughly with lead paper out of our cigarette packages. After it was heavy enough we lifted a board off an old well in the school yard and threw it down. In a few minutes it looked like a volcano. Up came the pipe twisted like a pretzel followed by the top boards. We had proved that our teacher was right.

When the brick school was built in 1925, an up to date fixture was installed, called a drinking fountain.



The fountain was fed by a raised tank that the janitor had to fill by pail regularly. One day some of the inventive students decided to flavor the water with a few packages of Ex-lax. Needless to say we had a holiday for the following two days.

### Modern Brick School Opened at Westlock with Due Ceremony

New Consolidated Six Room Building Testimony To Rapid Growth of District; In 1903 Children were Being Taught in Modest Tent

"I declare the Westlock consolidated school formally opened." With these remarks Hon. Perren Baker, Minister of Education, closed his speech at the opening of the splendid six-roomed school recently completed in Westlock, and formally opened on October 19.



New Red Brick School, Westlock, 1925.

The occasion was one of great note among the residents of the town and surrounding district and many hundreds came to witness the event. The day was all that could be desired. Speeches were being made from the steps of the school, while the people stood outside. Following addresses by Hon. Perren Baker, Inspector Le Blanc, and Mr. Blakey, who were introduced by the chairman, Mr. Brown, a presentation was made to the school of a large Union Jack by the Women's Institute, through the president, Mrs. Campbell. The flag was received on behalf of the school by Archie McEwen, following which the school children united in singing "O Canada" while the flag was hoisted on the flag pole. After the ceremony the people adjourned to the science room where dainty refreshments were served by the members of the institute to all.

#### Successful Experiment

The new school is of red brick with rough-cast in the gables and is of the new one-floor type. According to Mr. Blakey, the architect who designed it, it is a successful experiment in school building, and from the financial standpoint has cost less per room than any other type in the province. Five rooms at present are in use as classrooms with separate cloak rooms, all being on the ground floor, while a sixth room on the second floor is to be used as a science lab. Special attention has been given to the ventilation while the whole building is heated with steam heat and electrically lighted. The rooms are large and well lighted. There is not the glare from the blackboards so com-



Grades X and XI Westlock Brick School. Dougall Roddick, John McRae, Graham Allen, Lloyd Brown, Muriel Smith, Amy Beatt, Eleanor Patterson, Eilene Allen, Aubrey Campbell, Paul Renaud, Charlie Brown, Billie Shaver, Warren Smith, George Crone, Helen Brown, Ora Boyd, Esther Beatt, Jean Stanton, Vera Simpson.

mon in the average schoolroom. The blackboards are of slate. Altogether the ratepayers may well be proud to be the builders of such a structure.

Inspector Le Blanc of the Westlock Inspectorate, who has been an enthusiastic booster for the new school, remarked that it is the second largest school in Alberta, north of Edmonton, the largest being that at Grande Prairie. "Today we are passing Peace River and as to Grande Prairie, they may well look out." Westlock has already given a premier to the province and there is no reason why a future one might not be found here, said Mr. Le Blanc as he praised the teaching staff for their efficiency.

The initial step in regard to education in the neighborhood was taken by Alex McGregor, at present an active member of the school board who, during the summer of 1903, gathered the children together in a tent of wagon sheets, opposite Joe Maloney's store. It was a truly rural school, the desks being a plank upon logs set on end. Soon after this the parents came to realize the real need of a school and held a meeting resulting in the Edison school district being formed. This centre was about three miles east of Westlock. In a few years the trend of settlement being westward, another school district known as the Wabash S.D. 1815 was formed, with the school house opposite what was then known as Swallowhurst post office.

**Westlock Followed Railway**

With the E., D. and B.C. railway came Westlock, which though a village of comparatively few years' growth, has developed greatly in those years. The increasing number of children in the district resulted in Westlock S.D. No. 3208 being formed in 1915. Later the trustees of these two districts decided that it would be more advantageous to unite, and Westlock consolidated S.D. No. 70 was formed, the Wabash school house being moved into Westlock, and the rural pupils being conveyed in a motor bus.

The overcrowding still continued, however, and



Westlock Brick School with some of the pupils.

the trustees, Messrs. A. R. Brown, F. H. Steele and A. C. McGregor, who, together with J. W. Shutt, the secretary-treasurer, have worked earnestly and faithfully for the district, took their courage in both hands and put the situation before the ratepayers at the annual meeting, receiving instructions to go ahead with a brick building. This being confirmed, on a vote being taken, the trustees obtained a debenture loan and engaged Mr. Blakey, of Edmonton, as architect, and accepted the tender of H. G. MacDonald and Co., as the contractors for the building. This was last spring and in a short time the ideal of the trustees and the ratepayers was realized in the present structure.

**The Westlock School Division No. 37  
by Dick Staples**

In 1938 the Department of Education of the Social Credit Government divided the province into large school units which were called divisions. A number of small school districts in one area were combined to form the larger unit. For administrative purposes each division was divided into five subdivisions with one trustee representing each of these on the division school board. A superintendent appointed by the Department of Education and a secretary-treasurer hired by the divisional board completed the administrative staff. It was argued that the large divisions would provide for more effective administration and co-ordination of education throughout the province.



School Division Office in Westlock, 1945.

In our area Pembina School Division No. 37 was formed on October 13, 1938 to include about eighty school districts surrounding the towns of Barrhead and Westlock with the central office located in Westlock. The Department of Education appointed Mr. Hollinshead as superintendent, a position which he held until 1940 when he was succeeded by Mr. Jim White for two years and then Mr. Leo Kunelius. Mr. Gordon Pierce of Westlock was hired by the division-



al board as secretary-treasurer, an office which he held until September 1942.

The Westlock Consolidated School District and the Barrhead School District were allowed to stay out of the division and continue to operate independently with their own school boards and secretary-treasurers.

In a few years it became apparent that the Pembina School Division was too large for effective administration. Late in 1947 the division was subdivided. The schools around Westlock became the Westlock School Division No. 37 and those adjacent to Barrhead formed the Barrhead School Division. Mr. Leo Kunelius who had been superintendent of the large division was appointed superintendent of the Westlock School Division. Mr. Walter Burchett, who had succeeded Mr. Pierce as Secretary-treasurer of the Pembina School Division in 1942, was engaged as secretary-treasurer — a position which he filled very capably until his retirement on December 18, 1959. A small building where the Legion building now stands was the divisional office. Mr. John Cameron, who had been Mr. Burchett's assistant, was appointed as secretary-treasurer in January 1960. After Mr. Cameron resigned in June 1975, Mr. Ernie Maser was appointed to the position. He was followed by the present secretary-treasurer, Mr. Wally Manchur, on May 15, 1978.

The first members of the Board of the Westlock School Division were Mr. R. D. Jorgenson, Chairman, Mr. A. J. Campbell and Mr. A. Stanley, all former members of the Pembina School Division Board. The first meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on January 2, 1948. On March 4, 1948 Mr. O. W. Elliot, the magistrate in Westlock, who represented the Busby-Pickardville subdivision and Mr. Mike Romaniuk were elected to fill the two vacancies on the divisional board.

On March 2, 1949 Mr. Jorgenson and Mr. Stanley resigned and were replaced by Mr. W. D. Lea representing the Jarvie-Dapp subdivision and Mr. Alois Zaczkowski representing the Clyde-Vimy subdivision with Mr. Campbell as chairman.

On June 22, 1949 the Westlock Consolidated School District No. 70 was included in the Westlock School Division. The agreement inclusion which culminated two years of negotiations between the two boards was made retroactive to June 1, 1949.

The terms of the agreement, which were signed on behalf of the division by Mr. Campbell and of the district by Mr. H. Martin, chairman of the consolidated board, had been posted on May 16, 1949. Since an insufficient number of electors (25 per cent) signed a request for a vote on the proposed amalgamation within the required twenty-one days, no

vote was necessary. A letter of resignation of the members of the Westlock Consolidated School board was submitted by secretary, Mr. W. Anderson.

At the time of amalgamation both school boards were fully aware that to improve the quality of high school education in the Westlock area, it was essential to develop a central high school which could offer fuller programs in English, French, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education as well as programs in Business Education, Industrial Arts and Home Economics, Music, Art and other electives.

Under the terms of the agreement the divisional board undertook to take immediate steps towards the erection of a modern school consisting of six classrooms initially and capable of expansion as the need arose.



Westlock Consolidated School #3208.

For its part the Westlock School District agreed to an additional tax requisition of \$4,599 over and above the amount raised by the regular divisional requisition. The tax rate in the town was 28 mills and in the rural areas 26 mills.

The Divisional Board immediately began preparations for the construction of the new school. Mr. Patrick Campbell-Hope was engaged as the architect. The plan called for a two-storey building with five classrooms, office space and a small staff room upstairs. The downstairs included two classrooms, a home economics and a science laboratory, washrooms, a storage space and a small janitor's room. The boiler room was located about 150 feet south of the building.

After some controversy over the location of the new building on the school site, agreement was finally reached. Mr. Napoleon Belly of Legal was hired as the contractor. Construction began in the spring of 1950. The upper floor and the washrooms in the basement were completed by the end of the year. The three high school and two junior high school classes were moved into the new building in January, 1951.

Although not elaborate, the new school was completely functional, providing large, bright classrooms and wide hallways upstairs and down with individual wooden lockers on each side of both hallways.

When Mr. Campbell resigned as chairman of the board in 1949, Mr. Elliot succeeded him as board chairman in January 1950. Mr. J. D. MacGillivray was elected to replace Mr. Campbell but served for only one year. After his resignation Mr. Charles Watson was elected to the board from that subdivision.

Mr. Elliot served capably as board chairman until his resignation from the board in 1954. Unfortunately Mr. Elliot was killed in a car accident shortly after his resignation. Mr. Richard Ponting, who represented subdivision 3 (Linaria-Pibroch-Eastburg), was elected to the chair.

Initially when the Westlock Consolidated District joined the division, the original Westlock School District was included in subdivision 4 (Clyde-Vimy) with Mr. Alois Zaczkowski as trustee. On December 14, 1954 it was transferred to subdivision 3 with Mr. Ponting as trustee.



Pembina School Division Board Members, early 1940's. Back row, L to R: Gordon Pierce (Sec.), Ollie Lea, James P. White (Supt.), Nick Miller. Front row: Louis Landvatter, Charles Yuill and Walter Burchett.

Then on December 21, 1956 the Department of Education agreed to make Westlock School District the sixth subdivision in the Westlock School Division. Mr. Ponting was elected as trustee of the new subdivision and Mr. Ivan Nielsen succeeded Mr. Ponting as the elected representative of subdivision 3. The other three subdivisions in the division were: Subdivision 1 — Fawcett-Flatbush; Subdivision 2 — Jarvie-Dapp; Subdivision 5 — Busby-Pickardville.

Towards the end of the 1940's school divisions throughout Alberta began to centralize the rural schools in their jurisdictions. In many cases in closing of rural schools, a focal point in rural communities, and the transportation of students to other schools was not always a popular policy and often met with stern opposition from both parents and ratepayers. However, to divisional boards centralization provided a solution to the problems of declining enrollment in most one-roomed rural schools and of the teacher shortage at that time which made it almost impossible to hire qualified teachers to teach in these small schools. But as well, centralization provided the opportunity to upgrade the standard of education by reducing the number of grades in elementary and junior high classrooms and to introduce the concept of a central high school for the division. By 1950 centralization in the Westlock School Division was well under way.

The Board of the Westlock School Division adopted policy of considering the centralization of a school only at the request of a majority of the parents of the school children in that district. The strong leadership of the board with able assistance and guidance of Superintendents Mr. Leo Kunelius (1940-1955), Mr. Earl Macdonald (1955-1962) and Mr. Rollie Ward (1962-1969) and secretary-treasurer Mr. W. Burchett and later Mr. John Cameron achieved the transition with a minimum of confusion and resentment. By 1967 all high school students in the Westlock division were attending the central high school in Westlock and most rural schools had been centralized.

In passing it is interesting to note that the six members of the Board of the Westlock School Division in January 1969 had served together on the board for almost a decade and that their combined years as board members totalled over a century. These board members included: Mr. Dick Ponting, (1954-1971) chairman of the board from 1956-1971; Mr. Dobson Lea, (1949-1973) the member with the longest ten-



Westlock Junior High School.



ure; Mr. Ivan Nielsen (1956-1969); Mr. Elwood Boyd (1960-1971); Mr. Bob McLaughlin (1960-1977) and Mr. Ken Round (1960-1979).

Besides the three original board members who had served on the Board of the Pembina School Division (Mr. Jorgenson, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Stanley), other board members with at least five years of tenure are: Mr. Charles Watson and Mr. Allie Watt (Subdivision 1); Mr. Alois Zaczkowski and Sarden Semenuik (Subdivision 4); Mr. W. O. Elliot and Russel Sterling (Subdivision 5) and Mr. Mike Romaniuk. This stability and experience of these board members coupled with dedication, their understanding of school problems and their straight-forward, business-like approach enabled them to cope successfully with the many problems associated with the operation of a large school system. Westlock School Division was in fact recognized by the Department of Education as one of the most successful and best managed divisions in the province.

When Mr. Rollie Ward resigned as superintendent of the Westlock School Division in June 1969, Dr. Ralph Sabey was appointed to that position which he held until he resigned in July 1970. He was followed by Dr. Brian Staples from August to December 1970, then Mr. Henry Teows from January 1971 until June 1971. Up till this time all superintendents had been appointed by the Department of Education but in 1971 the Department changed its policy and required Divisional Boards to appoint their own superintendents. Mr. Jack Plumb was appointed to that position by the Board of the Westlock School Division in July of 1971. He continued in that capacity until February 1974 when he was succeeded by Mr. Jim Welsh who held the position until July of 1976. Mr. Don Watkins was then engaged by the board as superintendent in August 1974 and he continued in that position until the dissolution of the Board of the Westlock School Division in March 1979.

In February 1969 Mr. Ivan Nielsen resigned to be replaced by Percy Smith. On July 16, 1971 Mr. Ponting resigned and Dr. Ralph Sabey, former superintendent of the Westlock School Division, was elected as the Westlock trustee. Mr. Bob McLaughlin was elected board chairman. In December 1971 Mr. Elwood Boyd resigned and Mr. Bevin Doke was elected in his place.

In January 1972 the complete board included Mr. McLaughlin, chairman, Mr. Sabey, Mr. Lea, Mr. Doke and Mr. Round.

In December 1972 Mr. Park Letts replaced Mr. Percy Smith and in December 1973 Mr. Lea resigned after 24 years on the board as did Dr. Sabey. Mr. Frank Davies and Mrs. Kay Vaughan replaced the retiring members.

In October Mr. Noel Elgert, Mr. Art Lyons and Mr. Fred Morie replaced Mr. Doke, Mr. Letts and Mrs. Vaughan.

In 1977 the Department of Education granted the town a second member on the Divisional Board.

On October 26, 1977 the members of the Divisional Board were: Mr. Ken Round, Chairman, Mr. Elgert, Mr. Morie, Mr. Edward Armstrong (replacing Mr. Frank Davies), Mr. Barry Stanley (replacing Mr. Art Lyons), Mr. L. Dettman (replacing Mr. McLaughlin who had resigned) and Mrs. M. Shefsky (Westlock's second trustee).

In October 1979 Mr. Stanley was elected chairman of the board. However, in January 1979 Mrs. Shefsky, Mr. Morie and Mr. Armstrong resigned. In March of that year the Department of Education dissolved the existing board and appointed Mr. Oscar Fadum as Official Trustee. In April 1979 Mr. Eldon Olstad was appointed by the Department as Acting Superintendent. These two officials of the Department of Education with the assistance of Mr. Wally Manchur, the secretary-treasurer, and his staff operated the Westlock School Division for the next twenty months.

In October 1980 a new Divisional Board was elected with the following members: Mr. Ed Pearce (a long time teacher and principal in the Westlock Division) chairman, Mrs. Valerie Ellis, Mr. Cecil Patey, Mrs. Lilly Glebe, Mrs. Thelma Schwarz, Mr. Ron Lane and Mr. David Chatters.

In October 1982 Mr. Pearce resigned from the board for health reasons and in November Mr. Patey resigned. The two new elected members were Mr. Bruce Lennon and Mr. Richard Swan.

At the time of writing the members of the Board of the Westlock School Division are:

Mr. David Chatters, Chairman (Subdivision 2: Jarvie-Dapp)

Mrs. Thelma Schwarz (Subdivision 1: Fawcett-Flatbush)

Mr. Ron Lane (Subdivision 3: Linaria-Pibroch-Eastburg)

Mr. Richard Swan (Subdivision 4: Clyde Vimy)

Mrs. Lilly Glebe (Subdivision 5: Busby-Picardville)

Mrs. Valerie Ellis and Bruce Lennon (Subdivision 6: Westlock)

For some time there have only been eleven schools operating in the Westlock School Division: Busby — Grades 1-6; Clyde — Grades 1-9; Dapp — Grades 1-6; Jarvie — Grades 7-9; Fawcett — Grades 1-9; Linaria — Grades 1-8; Vimy — Grades 1-9; Westlock — Elementary, Junior High and High Schools and Hillman, the one-roomed school at the Hutterite colony.

# **Westlock School** **A May 24th Celebration** **Kathleen MacLachlan**

In the 30's, loyalty to the vast British Empire upon which "the sun never sets" was very strong. To emphasize these feelings of patriotism, parades and pageants by the Westlock school children were sometimes held on May 24th. The parade route usually took them around the main streets, and finally to the cenotaph on the school grounds.



First school bus in Pembina Division, 1945.

On one such memorable occasion, it was decided that Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies would be out in full dress, and that each school class should portray a particular part of the glorious British Empire, the natives of which would be appropriately dressed for the pageantry of the parade. Some represented the British Isles replete with Union Jacks, some were Canadian Indians, headdress and all; some were New Zealanders, some Australians, some Scottish and Irish. Last, but not least were the Grade VI and VII students who represented East Indian Sikhs, rigged out in their mothers' dish towels for turbans and white bedsheets draped around them as saris held in place by many unreliable safety pins. They were to vocalize Rimski-Korsakov's **Song of India** as they approached the cenotaph.

Jack French, a high school student, was to sound reveille on his bugle to begin the march. The teachers and their helpers had prepared refreshments and gallons of lemonade the previous night for the thirsty paraders on their return to the school.

Unfortunately, the night before the celebration, a cold snow had fallen, taking temperatures well below normal for that time of year. As the precipitation melted a chilling wind arose, making nasty conditions for a celebration of any kind. However, it was decided to carry on as planned.

When Jack attempted his bugle call, the pipes were so cold that the sound coming from them was a



Grade X, 1925. Front row: Archie McEwan, Charlie Crombie, Bruce Laidlaw. Middle row: Fanny Edgson, Eleanor Griswold, Juliette Van, Emma Peacock, Annie Thachuk. Back row: Gladys Johnston, Marjorie Stanton, Girlie Manning, Geneva Clesson, Dolly Deveak.

hoarse whisper resembling the dying gasps of a bovine about to expire. After one or two more attempts the bugle number was abandoned. The parade started off; Scouts, Guides, Cubs, and Brownies blue-kneed; small children from various parts of the Empire shivering as they waved their flags from frozen hands. Bringing up the rear were the erstwhile white-clad Hindus rescuing their headdresses from the wind, and gallantly trying to relocate the moor-



High School and Elementary School Staff of Westlock — June, 1940. Back row: Frank (Skiv) Edwards, Principal; Ivan Sutherland, Gr. 7 and 8. Front row: L to R: Julia Fjell, High School; Anne (Waring) Hide, Gr. 3 and 4; Rita Sterling, Gr. 9; Emily Clifford, Gr. 1 and 2; Esther (Pritchard) Loree, Gr. 5 and 6.



ings of their saris before they took off into outer space! Following the painful march around town, the group assembled at the cenotaph for the closing ceremonies. The young soloists and elocutionists did very well in spite of chattering teeth quavering breath. The Song of India was unique in that it was performed in 40 different gravelly keys with varying words depending on the extent the wind had fogged their memories. Finally the King was sung, and thanks given to Queen Victoria who had made this holiday possible.

All were ready for refreshments in the school. Fortunately, Mr. Larson, the kind considerate caretaker had gone to the school and stoked up the coal furnace ready for the shivering returnees. The teachers who had previously made lemonade, had dashed about getting milk and hot water to make cocoa to thaw out the frozen inners. The lemonade was saved for a more seasonable day. Then, as now, weather can ruin the best laid plans.

### The New Arvilla School No. 2036

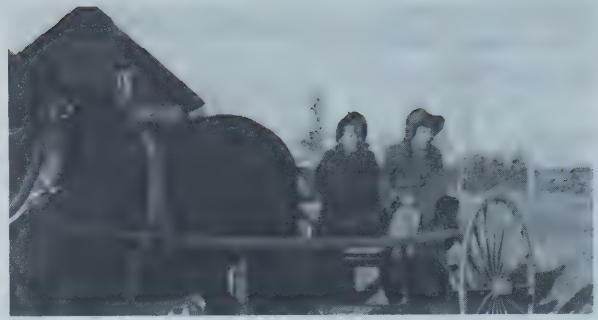
The new school was named Arvilla but kept the old number, #2036. It was built by the Westlock School Division as the Hazelwood Municipality had been closed due to the new division of municipalities. It was a one-room school on a cement foundation with a brick chimney to basement. The windows were all on the one wall, with a brick-effect siding. It was heated by a coal furnace in the basement.



Winter transportation for the school children — Arvilla, 1949. Morin's rig.

Janitors were the Garon family or the teachers. The teachers who taught in the new school were: Miss Clark, Mrs. Hebert, Steve Berezon, Peter Cabinet, Annie Barton, J. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Helen Hennessy, Mrs. Marget Woods, John Yaremko. They taught grades 1 to 8.

The families that went to this school were L'Heureux, Munro, Dietrich, Kruger, Liskie, Kendrick, Gibson, Witter, Erickson, Jackson, Morin, Garon, Birkos, Lorenze, Puchala, and Haenschke.



Peggy and Rita Morin off to school, 1949.

A residence was bought from Mr. William Price for a teacherage and moved to the school grounds. All the above teachers lived in the teacherage except Mrs. Woods. When the school closed, the teacherage was sold to the Hutterites at Pibroch. Softball and basketball were played at the school. The Fawn Lake School and Arvilla played against each other. Children who lived far away rode horseback to school, some used a horse and cart, buggy or caboose. In the summer the children used their bikes when the weather permitted.

The children also had a Christmas Concert, but there were some of the teachers who did not put one on. Names were exchanged for the gifts at the school. A small picnic, with a ball game and goodies for all, finished off the school year.

Trustees who served on the Board were Emmanuel L'Heureux, Joe Lorenze, Reinhold Haenschke, Amadee Garon, Albert Morin, Ron Witter. Emmanuel L'Heureux was the Secretary.

When the municipalities were divided, Westlock became the centralization point, and all the pupils from the little country schools were transported to Westlock by bus. Roads were bad for the bus at the time, but were brought up to a better standard to facilitate the school busses.



Arvilla School, 1940.

BLAKE	PARSON	PARSON	GRYCE SINGLETON		NAGEAU	RAND	JACKSON
(23)		(24)		(9)	(20)		
STOKES				BRENT	GARDN	JOHNSON MORIN	JACKSON
	MEASURE THEBERGE	RACINE YEOMANS		VALCOURT	HITCHING GARDN	GARDN	GARDN
(14)		(13)		(16)	(17)		
DENKE	CHAMBERLAIN	MYERS	MILLER	WHITE	STEVENS	KENDRICK	GIBSON
(11)		L'HEUREUX	WATSON	KENDRICK	SKINNER WITTER	WITTER	
		(12)		(7)	(8)		
		DEATREAD	L'HEUREUX	SAMMALL	LITTLE MCLEAN	ERICKSON	
CARE	BERCUS	LORENSE	KNIGHT MONRO	POTTS KRUGER	GRAVE	PLATSNER	
(2)		(1)		(6)	(5)		
KRISHER	TANAHILL KRISHER	HENSCH	MIDDLETON	HOGG SDN	HOOBSON	PLATSNER	





Last class at Arvilla School, 1959. Front row, L to R: Fern Munro, Rose Liskie, Leo Morin. 2nd row: Allan L'Heureux, Jerry Witter, Denis Witter, Carol Hasiuk, Ila Munro. 3rd row: Elsie Liskie, Fred Hasiuk, Doreen Witter, Erika Newman, Cheryl L'Heureux. Back row: Annette Morin, Eric Liskie.

Due to the low attendance of pupils in the school and the difficulty of getting a teacher, the Arvilla District had to close their school in 1959. The pupils were then bussed to Pickardville and Westlock.

Education may be better in a large school for the older children, as the choice is there for any vocation they want to take up in life, but give us the country school for the little ones anytime. Some very fond memories are looked back to, in the little country school house, by the parents.

After the school closed, the Arvilla Community Association got the building for recreation, and they later had it stuccoed. Card parties, Bingo, and dances were held there for a while, but as there was no electricity connected to the school, they decided it was best to sell it. It was sold to Amadee Garon, to be made into a shop. So ends the era of the little country schoolhouse, and its memories.

				TOWNSHIP 60		RANGE 24 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN			
R MONTCRIEF D MONTCRIEF	M SEMENIUK	J B COWOT 15 O NELSON H MATTES	P TESLAK GRIEVE	J KASSEN 11 L R NASH C STERLING	R SORENSON D ALLCOCK	J WORKMAN 11 L NASH  CHARLES STERLING	J WORKMAN 12 L NASH	J TESSELMAN R WOLLMAN	DANT CUMMINS 06 IDA MCCOY
GASTON TINANT A CHAMPAYNE	J TINANT D MCCOY	J B DRON 11 D TERACE E GREGORET	M KLASSEN 11 M TESLAK & N ANTONIUK	J P GOSCHE 11 M TESLAK & N ANTONIUK	J JASSLIN 11 M YAREMKO	J KLEEN 14 M YAREMKO	MRS R WORKMAN 15 J TESSELMAN W YAREMKO	HY CLARK 06 E ROUND A GALE	MARTIN 06 CUMMINS IDA MCCOY
F FUCHS	J TINANT D MCCOY	L T DRON 11 D TERACE J BAIER	J FORSLUND 13 P TESLAK	STAN WORTHMAN 12 P TESLAK	JOE E FLYNN 11 M TESLAK	J E FLYNN 11 W KOHLRUSS	CROWN LAND W KOHLRUSS	S CRONE A GALE	CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S FUND A CHIOVELL
Bouchard SD GEO CLYDE 09 J FUCHS	J FUCHS	T CARREFOOT 17 S FIX	EDGAR HALL 08 J STROOT 10 S FIX	DELPHIS MAJEAU 09 L E WORTHMAN ANSELMO	L ELSASSER 15 P TESLAK	A HANSON 13 J F JACUILL 15 W KOHLRUSS	CROWN LAND W KOHLRUSS	CROWN LAND	CROWN LAND
C G CARLSON 07 C VON LOWEN-STEIN	S CARLSON 11 G E MIDDLE-STEAD 17 R MIDDLESTEAD	GUY OSTRON 13 J BAIER	E SAVARD 07 R MIDDLESTEAD CLOUTIER	C JASELIN 11 V JASELIN J McLEAN	A J NELSON 11 W VON LOWEN-STEIN	W VON LOWEN-STEIN	B N EGGE 02 P NUGENT	R PUESCHAL 16 P NUGENT	
O CARLSON 09 AMY SELLICK S POIRIER	CON JOHNSON 11 ETTA ROUND	WM SELLICK 11 J BAIER	W BARLEY 11 E BAIER C THOMPSON	S McLEAN LAKE WAKOMAG LAKE	S WORTHMAN 12 W & M VON LOWENSTEIN	E H OLDBROOK P NUGENT	A MAYNARD 14 P NUGENT		
TOWNSHIP 60 RANGE 25 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN		W H JACK 08 M SEMENIUK DON CAMPBELL	ANTOINE GIROUX 08 H LUSSON	NEILSON 08 E A HESS E WOODS 10 H LUSSON	W PNEISRE 13 J DONALD	R PNEISRE WHISSELL ENTERPRISE	CROWN LAND		
							LAKE RAILWAY		

# Boudreau School District No. 3893

## from Fr. Alphonse Bilodeau's diary

The first Boudreau School Board consisted of Gerome Beart, Albert Bilodeau, Telesphore Beau-pré, with Arthur Labbé as secretary. The school was built during the winter of 1920-21, on two acres of land from the NE¼ 15-58-24-W4.

The first teacher was Lea Tellier of Morinville; she taught six pupils (Emile Sauvé, Albert Huot, Wilfred and Laurette Huot, Philippe and Blanche Bilodeau) for two months in the spring of 1921. By 1930 the eight-grade, one-room school was filled to capacity with forty-four students. Alphonse Bilodeau supplied the school with water and wood for a few years, and also started the furnace one hour before school classes began, for four years.

Other teachers were: Alma Bourque, 1921-22; Miss Brault, 1922-24; Robert Helie, 1924-26; in 1926-27 there were three teachers, Marie Lavoie, Mr. Braier, who was fired because he couldn't teach French, and finally Mrs. Barsocoff. Jean Trembly, 1927-31; Florence Belsile, 1931-33; Germaine Fortier, 1933-40; Miss Leserch, 1940-41; Mrs. Blanche



Boudreau School. 1933. Teacher — Florence Belle.

L'Heureux from April until June, 1941, then Miss Estelle Albert from September to Christmas, 1941. After Christmas no teacher was found, so the pupils were transported to Vimy in a canvas covered truck driven by Arthur Pelletier. Boudreau School was never reopened; later it was moved to Busby.

Names of the families whose children attended Boudreau School: — Zotique Sauvé, Edward Huot,

Boudreau School Dist. No 3893									
Highway No 2									
28		27		26		25		30	
Daniel Duffay 1906 A. Chailion A.M. Vezina Clément Provencal		Denoit Beart Albert Beart Therese Beart Paul Beart Paul Beart		J. Belive 1906 Alp. Gibeau Fortune Bernard Emile Bernard		Henri Lamarche 1906 Alma Casavant Arthur L'Heureux Art. L'Heureux		Alex Beland Theode Comeau Mrs. Thelma G. Blanchette Alb. Blanchette	
John Pelletier Leo Pelletier Alva Steffes Albert Dubois Milton Starling		Francis-Xavier Laplanche Emile Laplanche Roger Laplanche		Thomas Imbeault 1909 Alp. Gibeau Emile Letourneau Fortune Bernard Marcel Bernard Emile Bernard		Gid. Boisvert Vic. Blanchette Leonard Blanchette		Ludovic Pelletier Garry Pelletier	
21		22		23		24		Township 58	
Romeo Laplanche Henri Bernard Gerard Beart Philip Pelletier Alfred Fortier Alp. Riquel Paul Chauvet R. Haldermann		A.P. Bilodeau 1908 J.R. Bilodeau Leon Huot Hector Huot		J. Alp. Bilodeau Romeo Provost Art. L'Heureux Lin L'Heureux Paul Beart		Julia Bachand 1906 Ed. Dumont Joe. Bachand Joe. Ouellet Roger Ouellet		Simon Sequin 1905 Joe. Ouellet J.B. St. Martin Ludovic Pelletier Archie Pelletier Wilfred Zadunayski	
Albert Proulx 1906 H. Campbell Euclide Proulx Alice L'Heureux A. DuChaplain Fernand DeChaplain		Wilfred Proulx 1906 Oscar Madère D. Lamont Alp. Huot Leon Huot		Boudreau School Rosine Beart 1901 Desrosier Marie Huot Doris Huot Claude Huot Irene Huot		Madore Lager Pit Vincent Dominico Chiavella W.C. Poloway L. Pelletier		Leo Charrois Maurice Charrois André Pelletier L. Pelletier	
Alfredore Proulx 1905 P. Granger Euclide Proulx Mrs. L. Provencal John LeWick Fernand DeChaplain		Louis Brisson 1908 Pit. Provost Maurice Lennard Blanchette		Pamela Garneau Adelard Garneau Henri Garneau T. Callaghan		J.C. Gagne 1902 J.B. DeChaplain Dominique Coulombe Eugene Coulombe		Pit. Vincent Madore Lager Dominico Chiavella W.C. Poloway	
Philip Proulx Louise Proulx Rock Proulx		Joas Tremblay 1907 Ferd. Gauthier Leon Fontaine Leonard Blanchette		D. Coulombe Dominique Coulombe Eugene Coulombe		Alp. Garneau 1902 Theodore Garneau Alfred Proulx Doris Proulx Armand Garneau Joe. Proulx Therese Pelletier		A. Desrosier 1907 Joe. DeChaplain Alb. DeChaplain W.C. DeChaplain	
9		10		11		12		Range 25	
Highway No 2								Range 24	



Alphonse Huot, Albert Bilodeau, Arsene Baert, Ferdinand Gauthier, Leon Davio, Gaudias Blanchette, Télesphore, Lemay, Jean-Baptist Charrois, Ludovic Pelletier, Jos Ouelette, Escavier Laplante, Jerome Baert, Fortunat Bernard, Henri Bernard, Euclide Riopel, Frank Rudac, Medor Leger, Mr. and Mrs. Leduc, Mr. and Mrs. Laconte, Jos Belland, André Pelletier, Dominique Coulombe, Aimé Casavant, Mr. and Mrs. Laroque, Alphonse Bilodeau, Arthur Vallée and Arthur Comeau.

## Boudreau School

In 1901, our father Dominique Coulombe, arrived in Alberta with his parents. After his marriage he settled in the Boudreau School District in 1924, where he also served as school trustee for one year.

Eight years later, in 1932, the two oldest boys of the family set out on foot for Boudreau School, two and a half miles away. During their first year no transportation was provided, except an occasional ride in the Leger's buggy (one half mile away) or sometimes on the Beart's stoneboat (one mile from home). For their second year they were supplied with a one-horse two-wheeled cart, or sulky. In winter they used a canvas caboose. This particular one was used for at least four winters, then we graduated to a wooden caboose equipped with a stove and pulled by two of Dad's frisky horses.



Boudreau School children 1930.

For many years we were almost assured of getting two weeks holiday during spring break-up because the swelling creek waters would wash away the bridge located about one mile from home.

On the way to school, we had the opportunity to fraternize with our neighbours' children from the Médard, Leger, Leduc, Jérôme Baert, Alfred Garneau and Denis Huot families.

Although we did not consider ourselves unfortunate or disadvantaged, we all admit that winter brought the most inconveniences and hardships. We

all remember, as many will probably recall, that on many cold mornings there was no heat in the school when we got there. Then, our very considerate and understanding teacher would coax us outside to run a few times around the school to warm up, after which we were permitted to sit in class with our coats and mitts on for most of the morning classes. In this way we could not do much writing, especially in ink, since our ink-wells were frozen solid. Numb fingers and cold feet frequently brought tears to first-graders' eyes and most of the younger girls.

Our lunch buckets (jam and peanut-butter cans) were placed in a row on the floor under our clothes hangers by the door. Understandably, at lunch-time our sandwiches were frozen solid.

From the year 1932, the majority of our family attended Boudreau school until its closing in about 1942, when we were bussed to Dunrobin school in Vimy, ten miles away.

Despite the seeming lack of facilities and conveniences, we recognize and appreciate the value of discipline and the sense of responsibility that was transmitted to the students.

In spite of the oft-expressed opinion that small one-room country schools were inferior, we all acquired a bilingual education that we have proudly kept and use to this day.

## Brooklyn School District #2036

by Lena Morin

The first meeting was on August 14, 1909 at 1:30 p.m. with twelve resident ratepayers present to form the proposed school district. Chairman Thomas Grice had all ratepayers sign and all were in favor of forming a school board and getting a school. Trustees elected were John Westerland, Napoleon L'Heureux, James Wilson, but Mr. Wilson didn't attend any more meetings, so the seat became vacant and Dave Watson was elected in his place.

At the meeting of October 9, 1909, The Brooklyn School #2036 was formed. It is unknown how it got its name. Plans were decided on how the school was to be built. One acre of land was secured from Dave Watson on the north-east corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ -12-58-27-W5 and Napoleon L'Heureux was contracted to clear half an acre to erect the school on, and the necessary buildings. The school was built as follows:

1. 20 x 28 ft, with 12 ft. to plate.
2. 3 windows on each side, each with 4 12" x 26" lights.
3. sheeting paper between first and second floor.
4. one door 3' x 6' 8".
5. Outside wall sheathed, with lap siding of spruce or cedar.

6. Inside walls sheeted, sheeting paper and sided with joint spruce siding, wainscotted 4' high with some material for capping.
7. Ceiling sheeted, sheeting paper and ceiling of V-joint spruce siding. Ceiling to be 15 ft. from the floor.
8. Chimney to be brick, and bottom to be 36" below ceiling.

The December 6, 1909 meeting was called to discuss securing a debenture loan of \$1,000.00 for the purpose of erecting and furnishing the school, outbuildings and fencing the school grounds. The bid with the lowest rate of interest was considered to be the best. It was from H. O'Hara of Winnipeg. The loan was borrowed on the security of the Brooklyn School District No. 1026 and was to be paid back in ten consecutive equal annual payments payable on the 30th. December each year. Interest was set at eight per cent per annum.

The Board authorized Secretary F. Skinner to get a quoted price on finishing lumber at the Morinville Lumber Co. Trustee John Westerland to go to Pickardville to buy lumber at a set price not to exceed \$15.00 a thousand. Instead, 7500 feet of dry lumber was purchased at the Patterson Sawmill for \$13.00 a thousand and Tom Grice hauled it for \$1.70 a thousand from the mill. Only four meetings were held in 1909, consisting of planning for the material for the school, and notices for tenders. Tenders were awarded to the lowest bidders early in 1910 in order to get the material so they could begin preparing the site and start building the school in the spring. Tom Grice cleared the school grounds and plowed a six foot fireguard for six dollars.

The building contract was awarded to William Elliott, Sr. for one hundred and thirty-eight dollars, including the erection of the chimney. John Norrelearn delivered the sill, and also supplied the tamarac blocks to set the school on, for twenty-one dollars. John Westerland hauled the finishing lumber and shingles for Forty dollars and fifteen cents.

Napoleon L'Heureux travelled to Edmonton to Poirier Bros. for 700 bricks for the chimney and a few bricks were picked up at St. Albert, plus five bushels and five sacks of lime and cement for the mortar, for the chimney.

Sheeting paper was used between walls, floors and ceiling, tar paper for the roof.

Napoleon L'Heureux was sent to Morinville to pick up the school furniture and supplies, plus a stove that had been ordered from E. N. Moyer & Co. Ltd., of Winnipeg, and also to pick up stove pipes, elbows and dampers on the same trip.

Mr. J. Dimelous supplied the first twelve cords of green wood and drywood for the first years supply at

\$1.75 a cord. The firewood was to be three feet in length, and anything over five inches to be split, all to be piled in the school yard. Each year, ten to twelve cords of wood was contracted to the lowest bidder. Prices ranged from \$1.00 to \$2.60 per cord throughout the years. In the Depression years prices were lower. In 1936, Tony Theberge supplied the firewood for One Dollar a cord.

Gus Peterson supplied sixty posts for the fence, and drove them into the ground at the school site, for Nine Dollars. John Westerland acquired the fence wire and gates at Joe Poirier store from Riviere Qui Barre, plus some hardware for the school, for \$41.65. There is no mention in the minutes as to who put up the fence. (No doubt some of the ratepayers).

John Stevens dug and curbed the well: 1st. ten feet @ 40¢ a foot, 2nd ten feet @ 64¢ a foot, 3rd ten feet @ 80¢ a foot. Napoleon L'Heureux secured the lumber to curb the well from Fred Wiley's sawmill.

The school opened in September, 1910, and four months of school were taught by Miss Jean Telfer. Six to seven months of school were taught each year for a number of years. Due to the school being so cold, no school was held in January, February, and even sometimes in March and April. One student told me the school was so cold, they almost froze to death in the winter time, so they had school all summer instead. It was not until 1927 that the children had July and August for vacations. Ten months of school was taught from 1928 on. Miss Jean Telfer received \$100.00 a month salary while she was the teacher there. Mrs. Susan Potts taught three years for Sixty Dollars a month. During the "Depression" years, the teachers salaries were down to Six Hundred Dollars a year, but there were some teachers who did get One Hundred Dollars a month. Grades from one to eight were taught. Discipline was a must, far different from what it is today. The strap was used to straighten out any delinquents!

Syrup and lard pails served as lunch pails, and lunches were a far cry from what they are in this day and age. Many just had bread and butter, with very little else to go with it. Everyone would have thought they had a lunch fit for a king (or queen) if they would have got lunches like children get now.

Games played at school were; Pump Pull Away, May I, Hopscotch, Basketball and softball. The Arvilla School played softball against Fawn Lake School in later years.

Some of the families who attended when Brooklyn opened were; L'Heureux, Erickson, White, May, Grice, Westerland, Parsons, Skinner. Later families were Maxwell, Breut, Conrad, Potts, Myer, Witter, Cunningham, Johnson, Birkos, Ingram, Cust, Measures, Theberge, Kruger, Liskie,



Knight, Puchala and many others. In 1921-1925 the Jorden, Ford, Wilkins families and Lewis Coffley came to Brooklyn School from the Fawn Lake School District.

A list of the teachers who taught at Brooklyn includes:

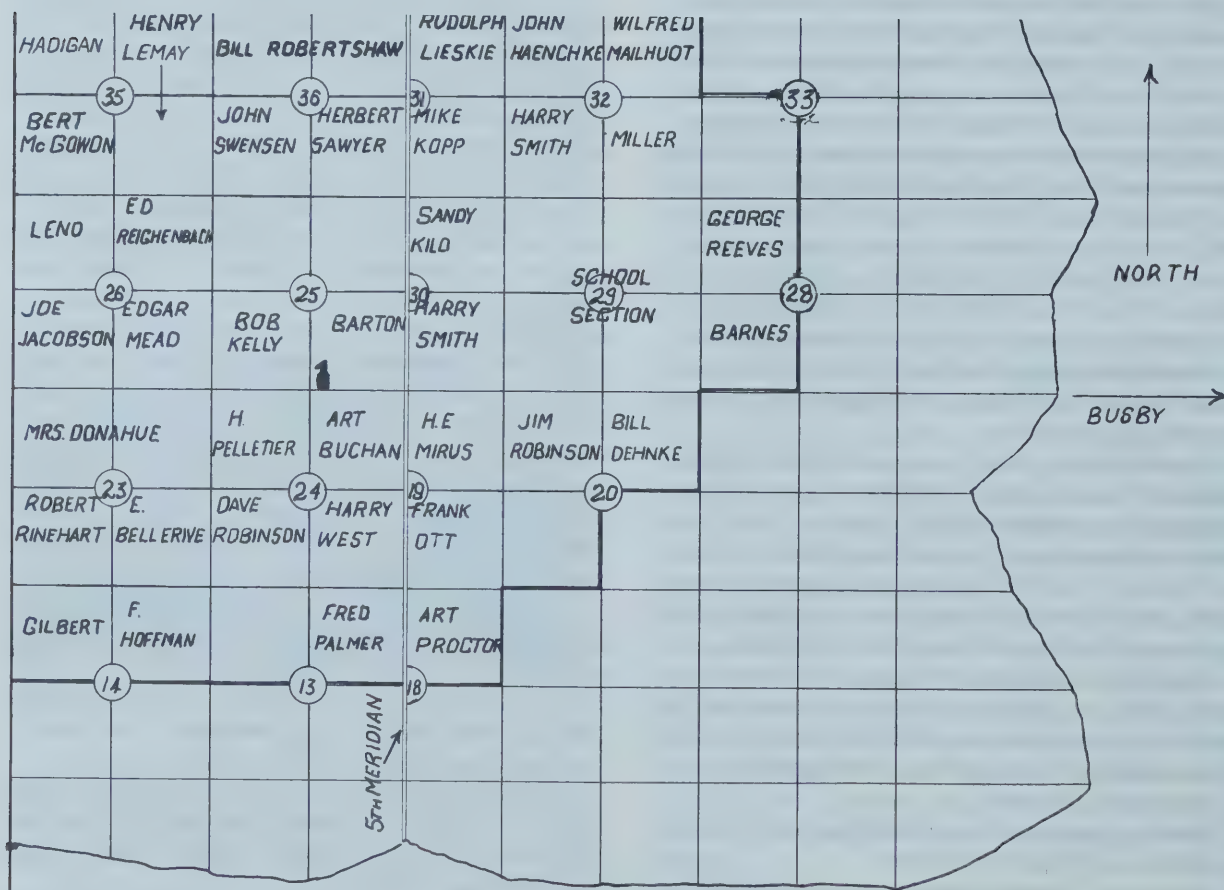
- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Miss Jean Telfer     | 10. Miss M. Clark       |
| 2. Mrs. Robert Parks    | 11. Miss Eachern        |
| 3. Mrs. Susan Potts     | 12. Mrs. McGinnis       |
| 4. Mrs. Easton          | 13. Mrs. Helen Ross     |
| 5. Miss Nellie Chandler | 14. Miss Annie Kolisnyk |
| 6. Mr. Peter Gray       | 15. Mrs. Cora Hoff      |
| 7. Mrs. M. E. Edwards   | 16. Miss Olive Latimer  |
| 8. Miss Erna Wilson     | 17. Mr. Guest.          |
| 9. Miss Anna McCoy      |                         |

In the early years, religious services were held on Sundays in the school. In 1927 Jim O'Brian held

services and Mr. Dickinson in the thirties until 1935. Christmas concerts were also held there in the beginning but were later held in the Arvilla Hall. A lot of effort was put into them by the teachers and pupils; some practised five or six weeks before the event. All looked forward to Xmas, and the pupils have many fond memories. Both the good and the bad is not forgotten!

The school didn't get painted until 1915, when Mr. J. L. Bailey gave it two coats of apple green paint with a moss green trim. In 1922 another platform and steps had to be built, by John Buchanan, and in 1926 a porch 6' x 12', and steps, were built by Mr. L'Heureux. In 1928 a new six-stall barn 16' x 16' was built for \$390.00 by Mr. L'Heureux. When the school closed in 1959 the same barn was sold to

## Busby Park School



Busby Park School District #3781.

Albert Morin for \$100.00. A concrete foundation was put in the school by R. F. Colbourne and a 12 ft chimney was built in 1931. In 1932 the district joined the Hazelwood Municipality. There was school taught at Brooklyn till 1943, when a new school was built to replace it. Brooklyn was later sold to a Westlock church. Trustees that served on the Board of the Brooklyn School No. 2036:

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. John Westerland    | 12. F. Skinner         |
| 2. Napoleon L'Heureux | 13. F. Stokes          |
| 3. Jim Wilson         | 14. R. Cunningham      |
| 4. Dave Watson        | 15. Joe Lorenz         |
| 5. Tom White          | 16. Dave Valcourt      |
| 6. Harold Parson Sr.  | 17. Mrs. Singleton     |
| 7. S. O. Fielghan     | 18. John McLean        |
| 8. T. Grice           | 19. Jack Monro         |
| 9. Bob Stevens        | 20. Emmanuel L'Heureux |
| 10. Wm. Virding       | 21. Reinhold Haenschke |
| 11. W. D. Breut       | 22. Amedee Garon       |

**Secretary's were:**

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Frank Skinner — 1½ yrs. | 4. Mrs. Stokes — 10 yrs.    |
| 2. Harold Parson — 5 yrs.  | 5. Ehtel Tannahill — 2 yrs. |
| 3. Wm. Virding — 5 yrs.    |                             |

Salary for the Secretary ranged from \$35 to \$75 a year.

**The Janitors for the school were:**

- |                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Alberta White     | Emily White |
| Harry L'Heureux   | Mrs. Myers  |
| Adrienne Thebargé | D. Valcourt |

Some of the teachers also did the janitor work. The salary ranged from \$5 to \$8 a month.

**Clover Valley School  
by Fanny Sterling**

Clover Valley School was built in 1913 on Government School Land, which was the NE¼ 11-59-26-W4, four miles south of Edison School. William Tracy, William Sterling and Michael O'Brien formed the first school board.

The name "Clover Valley" was chosen from several submitted, it being named after a district in Manitoulin Island, Ontario, from where the Sterling family originally came.

The building was erected by Mr. Chas. Nelson, a carpenter from Clyde, at a cost of \$800.00.

Miss Browning was the first teacher, with six pupils in attendance on the first day. They were Marge Tracy, Mae Cannard and Ray, Rita, Russell and George Sterling. The children all walked across the fields from their homes, carrying home made benches, to enter the room with four bare walls! It was not long before sufficient fixtures were provided, and the school operated for several years.

Clover Valley and Violet Hill, a school four and a



Clover Valley School 1944.



Clover Valley School, Clina Morrin (Teacher).



Clover Valley baseball team, 1944. Teacher Miss Kowalski.



TOWNSHIP 59 RANGE 26 WEST OF FOURTH MERIDIAN					TOWNSHIP 59 RANGE 25 WEST OF 4TH MERIDIAN			
BRITISH ALBERTA INVESTORS R POLLARD	G POLLARD	M JERKE A T POLLARD	P MERCIER H JONK	LAVALLIER M POLLARD	Z BERTRAND VALLIERE P GREGORWICH D LANG	F PENNOCK R KIESER	DUKE OF SUTHERLAND McMILLAN L SLUPEL	DUKE OF SUTHERLAND McMILLAN L SLUPEK
J C POLLARD	D LUCHKIW	S MELNYK A T POLLARD	L LANGILLE M POLLARD	MISS FORTIER STELMAC HAUGH K PANKONIN	F PENNOCK STELMAC HAUGH K PANKONIN	F BALDWIN CUST D PAUL TORANCE E LAMBERT	W HOULE E LAFERRIER J MESTON Sr	DUKE OF SUTHERLAND J MESTON Jr
E CORMIER J M POLLARD	R POMBERT W WOLF	R POMBERT M WOLF	D PANKONIN	LEGERIER J ROGERSON BUTTER- BROUGH H MEHDEN & WAGNER E D SMITH	E PARRENT D WOLF	O HOULE F PENNOCK W DURSTLING R KIESER	W TRACY H BEAUCHAMP W STERLING R STERLING L STERLING & R MCCULLOUGH MILTON STERLING	G McLACHLAN
A SCHAAB A & H STEFFAN	J STEFFAN	DUFRESNE R RENAUD J STEFFAN	M WOLF	G STERLING R STERLING B STERLING	P CLOUTIER I PETRIN STELMAC HAUGH K PANKONIN	H LEGASSE L MERCIER STRATTON P SABOURIN	McPWAN FORTIER R FORTIER L FORTIER	
J ANDRUS G CLEWS	M BILAN G BROWN	SENIUK M MYZIUK	STELMAC HAUGH K PANKONIN	I PETRIN STELMAC HAUGH K PANKONIN	I PETRIN STELMAC HAUGH K PANKONIN	W STERLING R STERLING J HAN STERLING	COURCHESNE P SABOURIN	
D LUCHKIW	A KRAMPS	MARDEL G BROWN	F TOBER	B GAGNE A BILODEAU	WOODSWORTH P GREGORWICH A SABOURIN	J MARSHALL A CANNARD G CANNARD	M O'BRIEN J HOKE STEVENS GILL A FORTIER R ST ARNAUD	
		A STEFFAN	SENIUK M MYZIUK	BEAUCHAMP F TOBER	J BARKER P BILODEAU N BILODEAU	J HOKE STEVENS A SABOURIN	HARRY CANNARD MYRON CANNARD GORDON CANNARD	
Clover Valley S.D. # 2558			F DOHERTY	F DOHERTY	TOWNSHIP 58 RANGE 26 WEST OF 4TH MERIDIAN			

Clover Valley School District #2558.

half miles to the northeast, were both closed from 1917 to 1921 when funds for salaries were hard to find. During these four years, school was held in a granary on the Duke of Sutherland's farm, about midway between the two, on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  17-59-25-W4. By so doing, one teacher was able to teach the pupils from both schools. The Duke of Sutherland, an Englishman of means, was the largest landholder in the world at that time, owning several sections of land in this district, as well as a large tract in southern Alberta, near Brooks.

As times improved again and pupils became

more numerous, the two schools were re-opened. Among the Clover Valley teachers that I recall were F. Lynn, R. McLeod, W. Tracy and J. Davidson.

Of the many families who lived in the area and attended Clover Valley School were the Houles, Baldwins, Barkers, Sterlings, Pollards, Sabourins, Fortiers, Pomberts, Legasses, Birks, Beauchamps, Marshalls, Hokes and Dufresnes.

The school closed for good in 1935. The building, with additions and alterations, is now located in Westlock on Highway 18. It is now the Christian Reformed Church.

Clyde School

		TOWNSHIP 60 RANGE 25 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN		N HANSEN 08 A CUNNINGHAM B PORRIER				
		E C DAGG F LATCHFORD	A SJOSTROM S SJOSTROM	C VON LOWEN- STEIN				
	G PLATENOW K RAYMENT	G CHANDLER 03 R SHANK N DORIN	ED GODWIN 05 R SHANK J SHANK	R MIDDLESTEAD	J P WILLIAMS	C ERICKSON 07 O R FIX		TOWNSHIP 60 RANGE 24 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN
	G PLATENOW K RAYMENT	A WILLIAMS 03 J ROELOFS	G CLYDE 05 C FORSEN J CARRIERE	O FORSEN G FORSEN	J P WILLIAMS	W B JAMIESON 06 R FIX	W VEALE 06 J P WILLIAMS	
HI-18	A CHANDLER 03 J ROELOFS	L & M GRAHAM  T NAVRATIL	CLYDE L B NEL- SON B GART- NER	J SELLICK 05 F SEIGLE D HYGAARD	E CLYDE 06 A & D CHAM- PAGNE	A DONALD	C WORKMAN	R DONALD 07 H LUSSON
	HENRY KNOTT 03 G RITTER J ROELOFS	C FORSEN	W SEIGLE	P SELLICK 05 A CHAMPAYNE	D WALKS 05 A CHAMPAYNE	J ROELOFS	E LUMAYKO	D E COUTTS 06 J ANSELMO
	J BERWICK	HUGH KNOTT 07 J BERWICK	D KNOTT 03 ED SEIGLE W SEIGLE	DON SEIGLE	A CHAMPAYNE	JOHN FLYNN 03 R DONNELLY G GOTT	A H FLYNN 09 L PATRY L PETRUCH	NORA BIRKS D JESSEY
	KEN ROUND	W WEIDRICK 03 KEN ROUND	E KNOTT 05 ED SEIGLE W SEIGLE	ED SEIGLE DON SEIGLE	E SEIGLE K SEIGLE	J FLYNN 03 C J CRAIG G SAW- W atsky GRETZ	R LEGATTE 03 A MUELLER	ANSELMO HOLDIN
		TOWNSHIP 59 RANGE 25 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN		D SKIDMORE 02 KEN ROUND BARRY ROUND	J LETENDICKER 05 L PATRY M PARRENT			TOWNSHIP 59 RANGE 24 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN

Clyde No. 1741

Clyde School District #1741.





Clyde Co-op Store, second floor of which was temporary quarters for the Clyde School, 1918-1919.



Madeline Nickerson, first teacher to graduate from Clyde Consolidated.



Clyde schoolgirls in front of Co-op Store-School, 1919. Back row: Beatrice Huyck, Connie Randall, Sarah Swatfigure. Middle row: Janet Savage, Dorothy McKee, Ellen Nyblood, Annie Nyblood, Ruth Burdick, Audrey Campbell. Front row: Molly Robinson, Kathleen Olson, Edith Groombridge, Erica Volkman, Blanche Leindecker, Audrey Nensen, Elsie Burdick, Irene Carew, Margaret Groombridge.



Clyde Consolidated School Staff, 1928. Back row: Gertie Hood, Maurice Sanderson. Front row: Eleanor Hall, Kathleen Olson, Margaret Chisholm.



Clyde Consolidated School, 1920.



Kathleen MacLachlan with her class in 1932.



More modern string of school busses awaiting their passengers in front of Clyde Cons. S.D. #67.



Clyde school bus 1938 or 1939. L to R: Helen de Rappard, Lila de Rappard, Tillie de Rappard, Yolande de Rappard, Irma Saisbury, Bert Mitchel, Hazel Mitchel. Bus driver George Beaton.



Grade VII Clyde, 1929. Back row: Alf Jack, Charlie Edgson, Larry Milligan, Nelson Munn, Mervin Gibson, Milfred Larplas. Front row: Margaret Cuthiell, Dorothy Vallis, Thelma Knott, Jeanne Ihuellou, Pearl Davis.



Harry Wagg drove this school bus to meet the motorized one on the highway, taking students to Clyde Consolidate School.



Clyde School, early 1930's.



"School Van" 1935.





Mr. G. B. Thurston, teacher at Clyde school, 1916.

### Cotswold School District No. 1862

In 1963 the Eastburg Farm Women's Union of Alberta, Local 304 printed a book "Eastburg" which presents very interesting sketches and pictures of the pioneers and the times in which they lived. Unfortunately, only a limited number of books was printed so the book was not generally available.

Eastburg is generally recognized as comprising all of Cotswold S.D. No. 1862, part of Springwell S.D. No. 4454, part of Hazel Bluff S.D. No. 1905 and part of what is today Barrhead County, according to the 1963 map in the book.

As one studies the 1963 map and compares it to maps of today, it can be seen that a number of today's land owners are direct descendants of original homesteaders. These include the Byvanks who have farmed NW 21 continuously and are now in the fourth generation; the Grahams who have farmed SE 16 continuously, the Hoogers family with Garret and Peter as the original settlers and the Johnston's, Otis, the father, who came in 1906 and son Charlie still resident in the district; the McGinnis family who own land but no longer live here and the Paquettes who are descendants of Frank Paquette, homesteader in 1908. Louis and Ernie live on land once a part of the father's holdings.

Barney Byvank homesteaded NW 21 in the fall of 1908. In March, 1909 he moved the family here and proved up in 1911. Son Bill lives on SW28 and his sons Ken, Mervin and Raymond farm in the area now.

Charles Graham and his wife Julie homesteaded SW 16 about 1908. Their son Dudley, farmed the land later and managed the post office until 1946. Dudley's second son, Bill, is still farming this quarter.

Garret Hoogers filed on SE 9 in 1908. He came from Holland with his sons Pete and Bill. Bill later farmed this quarter and he and his wife Pearl operated the telephone exchange for many years. They have two children; Gladys Robinson of Westlock and Howard, still in the district. Pete married Leona Meade in 1928. They had two sons: Gordon of Westlock, Norman of Spruce Grove and one daughter Lorraine (Wodelet) of Penticton, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Johnstone came from California in 1908 to homestead SW 8. Son Lloyd returned to California. Pearl, the daughter, married George Rose and Charlie married Bertha Skaalen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Helge Skaalen who had come here in 1906. Bertha and Charlie have two sons; Donald of St. Albert and Stanley of Calgary.

Reg McGinnis filed on NE 9 on November 28, 1908. He came from Ontario and lived alone until 1919 when he married Louie Hyde, a teacher at Cotswold. They had three sons; Arthur (Bud), Robert and Doug. Bud, now retired from the Department of Agriculture, is with FAO in Pakistan, Doug is a dentist in Vancouver and Bob is Dean of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg.

Frank Paquette homesteaded SW 3.

In the early days, some of the land was filed on by professional people such as druggist Len Tice, Doctor Phillips, and teacher Professor W. Haynes. Most of these quarters have passed through several changes of ownership.

Other pioneer families not now represented in the district included J. G. MacGregor whose son James

# COTSWOLD S.D. - 1862.

TOWNSHIP 59  
RANGE 1  
WEST OF THE  
FIFTH MERIDIAN

MRS MUND  
G. STOUTT.  
C.O. & B.M.  
JOHNSON

B J BYVANK  
W BYVANK  
R BYVANK

LEO GILLINES  
E CLARKE  
EMIL BAUER  
M & W PAQUETTE

MRS MUND  
G STOUTT  
C JOHNSON

DONKELLAR  
M BEACH  
B M JOHNSON

MRS CANTON  
P CANTON  
L BRUHJELL  
H W HOOGERS

JULES CANTON  
W RUSSELL  
ADVENTURA  
HOLDINGS LTD

W BOEMAN  
VAN DONKERS-  
GOOD  
R DE JONG  
BERT DE KAM

J TERHORST  
R TESKE  
R & R BYVANK

J MCGREGOR  
W MCGREGOR  
JULIUS MANTAY  
R TESKE  
V G TESKE

PERRY  
G TRACY  
C SCHMIDT  
W & S MIDDLE-  
HOOP

HENRY KIPP  
C HALL  
LORETTA STAN-  
TON  
H HARVEY  
D & D JENSEN

ST PIERRE  
H HARVEY  
G C STANTON  
E G BEHIEL  
A KUHN

L TICE  
E McDONALD  
A & G PEDERSON  
D FRASER  
E & A HAROLD-  
SON

JOHN TERHORST  
JAMES BARCLAY  
N & E NADEAU

DR. PHILLIPS  
W MCGREGOR  
JAMES BARCLAY  
N & E NADEAU

C GRAHAM  
D GRAHAM  
W T GRAHAM

H POULSON  
LOUIS PAQUETTE

ART KIPP  
C SCHMIDT  
W MIDDLEHOOP

PROF. H A  
HAYNES  
G C STANTON  
E G BEHIEL  
A KUHN

PROF. H A  
HAYNES  
V G TESKE

JOHN DARLING  
R  
HORRICKS  
E  
ZITTLAW

J ALLEN  
A DE JONG

P CANTON  
W J HOOGERS

R MCGINNIS  
MCGINNIS BROS.

P CLAUSEN  
H POULSON  
LOUIS PAQUETTE

BAILEY  
DR. A J Mc -  
GINNIS

P HOOGERS  
F & M RODE  
O & C RODE

O JOHNSTON  
F & R OTTO  
E SCHIEWE

H HADLEY  
Wm HADLEY  
B & D BONIK

H HULSHOP  
W J HOOGERS

GARRET HOOGERS  
W J HOOGERS  
H HOOGERS

B TRACY  
P HOOGERS  
D STONE

C B SMITH  
A VANNIEUVAN--  
HUYSE  
A MILLER

AMBROSE  
R KURTZ

C R JOHNSTON  
F & R OTTO  
E SCHIEWE

MCINTYRE  
F SCHIEWE

C ROSE  
G ROSE  
C OTTO  
F SCHIEWE  
V & L SCHIEWE

ALF ROSE  
F SCHIEWE  
V & L SCHIEWE

W BLAKE  
P HOOGERS  
H & E HOOGERS

A VANNIEUVAN-  
HUYSE.  
A MILLER

H CABLE  
R KURTZ

MCINTYRE  
H WHITEHOUSE  
O RISTOFF  
H RISTOFF

MCINTYRE  
W BROWN  
JOS. TEWS  
H RISTOFF

BOB MASON  
O G SEMLER  
G & E SEMLER

N GILLILAND  
N BREAUFT  
HENRY RODE  
KEN LOWE

F PAQUETTE  
E PAQUETTE

F RADLIN  
E DESCHAMPS

COTSWOLD

Cotswold School District #1862.

wrote so interestingly of the early days in "North West of Sixteen." James Sr., filed on NW 16 in 1906 and he and his wife had two sons. Jim MacGregor Jr. and Bill who farmed the home quarter and married Mary Wightman, a local school teacher, in 1929. Their son Bob of Athabasca is publisher of the Hub. Daughter Jean married Ken Knowles who operates Roto Flite Helicopters in Edmonton and Bertha (Graham) lives in Calgary. Her husband is with Canadian Explosives. In 1946, Mary and Bill moved

to Westlock where Mary taught school until her retirement and Bill worked in municipal government until his death.

Mrs. Canton and her sons Jules and Paul were early homesteaders. Jules was an electrician who used his skills to organize the first telephone service in 1918.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kipp who came from Michigan, homesteaded in 1906. Arthur Kipp filed on SW 15 in 1906. He and his wife Evelyn had a son Robert



and a daughter Pauline. Elmer Kipp took over SW 15 and lived in the district for many years. He and his wife had four daughters; Elsie, Helen, Shirley and Thelma and a son, Herbert.

Blakes came in 1907. They sold NW 3 in 1926 to Bert Tracy who in turn sold it to the Hoogers.

Herman Hulshofs came with five children in 1908 to homestead SW 9. They moved to Portland, Oregon in 1922. Howard Hoogers now owns this land.

John Terhorst and his wife filed on NE 17 in 1909. They moved to the U.S.A. in the 1920's. Henry, the son, married Gertie Skaalen and served as councillor for several years. They had two children, Hardy and Winnie. Henry and Gertie eventually retired to Westlock and are now deceased.

Charles Rose Sr. filed on NW 4 in 1906. He brought his family out from England in 1912. The older son, Charles, was killed overseas in World War I. George, the younger one, bought his dad's and Uncle Alf's farm in 1945. George and his wife Pearl (Johnston) farmed for many years before retiring to Barrhead. They had one daughter Ethel (Grant) of Edmonton.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Harvey bought NW 15 which Henry Kipp had homesteaded. They lived in a house built in 1910 on what was called Harvey's Hill. This quarter is now owned by Dane and Dorothy Jensen who built a new house on the hill.

NW 21, homesteaded by Leo Gilliness, was farmed by Mr. and Mrs. Emil Bauer for many years. The land is now owned by Wanda and Martin Paquette.

The Teske families have lived in the district at various times. Right now, Vern and Evelyn farm NW 7. They have three children; Mavis, Dwayne and Darrell.

More recent district members include Norman and Elsie Nadeau, the W. Middlekoops, O. Rodds, Ron Kurtz's, the Schiewes, the Millers, the Van Nieuvenhuyses and the Semlers as well as others.

Thanks to the 1963 members of Eastburg FWUA for gathering much of the material for this record of Eastburg district.

## Cotswold School

How did a little country school come to be labelled with such an English name? Mr. A. East, a pioneer of the district, supplied the name as he felt the rolling nature of the land was similar to the Cotswold Hills area of western England.

Cotswold was organized as a school district in 1908. The school was built the following year and it opened in 1910. The first teacher was Mr. Jesse Bell.

The school was located on the southwest corner of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  19-59-1-W5.

Most of the early settlers had come from the British Isles, Holland and the United States. Such surnames as Clausen, Hoogers, Hulshof, Paulson, Tice, Harvey, Byvank, Tracy, Johnston and Rose give an idea of the multi-cultural nature of the early school population.

Among the first to serve as trustees of the school board were: Messrs. MacGregor, Otis Johnston, E. C. Kipp and D. Graham.

The school was the centre for many community activities prior to the building of the first Eastburg Hall in 1921. Church services were held in the school in the early days.

## Dungannon



Dungannon School pupils: Top row: Olive Green, Madeline Nickerson, Winnie Martin (teacher), Elmer Edgson, Bill Logan, Walter Parton. Bottom row: Marion Lendrum, Violet Taylor, Frances Hobart, Ellen Nelson.



Dungannon School, 1913 (?).

J W HARRIS 12 M FLESE	H A PUESCHEL 12 A HEGARAT	D MALONEY 15 C HEGERAT	ROLAND LOYD 17 L B GIAHANN A KAUFMAN	BEN BAXTER 09 G MILLER J PALMER A BACKMIER	Wm J WILSON 09 A TOLLEFSON L HERCYZ R KLINGSPOON	T T CLYDE 12 DALE INGALLS J BERWICK
20 MATHIAS 04 M KIMMEN C RAMSUM H RAMSUM	W C FENN 08 J HUPPERTZ	21 ED MISTELSKI 06 C HEGERAT	22 ALF HORSLEY 06 A KAUFMAN	J C RATHBONE 07 D C STEWART 09 F PRANTNER	23 O HELLEKER 10 F PRANTNER	J R HILL 09 J BERWICK
A TAYLOR 08 L POMERLEU F PETERSON 07 FRED ERTMAN 07 H RAMSUM	JNO A BEATON 04 G LENTZ	JESSE BEATON 03 L NEWCOMBE	O W NYBLOD 11 F PRANTNER	P STEWART 09 A PETERSON 12 R HOUGELAND	CHAS CHRONIE 09 F FUCHS	C WASHING 07 P I CHRONIE 09 F FUCHS
17 A E EIFFERT 08 H RAMSUM	JNO A KNOTT 06 G LENTZ	16 JNO BEATON 03 T HOUG G LENTZ	MAGGIE BEATON 06 C VON LOWEN- STINE	15 A CAMEL 08 J WICKSTRON 11 H FRASER	NORMAN HALL 08 C A ANDERSON 11 K PETERSEN	14 FRED BONSON 08 K PETERSEN M COLEY J FUCHS
WM TROUTON 03 J HUPPERTZ	GEO BEATON 05 T LENTZ H LENTZ	ARTHUR LUCAS 06 H LENTZ	H A DOSSER 06 H LENTZ	ALF PARTON 04 J KALANOWSKI A GOLER	SAM FRANCIS 07 J KALANOWSKI	R HOOGLAND C VON LOWEN- STINE
FRED MEYERS 03 J HUPPERTZ	8 CARL NELSON 03 THEO LENTZ H LENTZ	WALTER WILKINS 06 H VANDERLEEST	T B HOUSTON 06 H FRASER	10 J T TAYLOR 04 H FRASER	N CHANDLER 03 G PLATENOW K RAYMENT	
M BOROWLECKI R HANDKE	THEO LENTZ	W A LOGAN 03 E KRUGER T NILLSON	R M LOGAN 03 D LAWTON T NILLSON	M BOROWIECKI M NYAL	TOWNSHIP 60 RANGE 25 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN	
5 L PEDERSON	R BREADNER A HODGE L SEGUIN	4 CARL HEDSTROM 03 D LAWTON T NILLSON	T P WILLIAMS 03 D LAWTON T NILLSON	L CLARAHAN	2	
NY- 18	ART EDGSON 02 E ENGEL W JAMIESON	HORST WILL R GALAS	M YAREMKO J YAREMKO	W J TAYLOR G RITTER	TOWNSHIP 59 RANGE 25 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN	
32 B SAYLOR 08 M KNORR	M KNORR	33	34	35	DUNGANNON No. 1461	
Dungannon No. 1461						

Dungannon School District #1461.



# Edison School #1029

by Jenny Sterling

Edison school is unique, due to the fact it was the very first school in the area north of Morinville. Actually, in the year 1904, school was held in a tent for the summer months. The teacher was Donald McGregor, an undergraduate sent out west to look after the spiritual needs of the early settlers. He arrived in the Edison hamlet and mingled with the people, and aside from his duties as a missionary, saw a great need for a school. Thus it was that the Garrison family supplied a tent and it was set up in a poplar grove, across from Joe Maloney's store, complete with a table, a chair, a blackboard made from four wide boards painted black, and benches for the

children made from planed spruce lumber. About one dozen pupils attended, off and on. The first pupils were Tessie, Vesta and Sylvia West; Daphne, Lloyd and Ivan Garrison; Abel, Albert and Harold Nelson; Henry and Lizzie Meyer; Sarah Beaton and three Beauchamp children, Alma, Oscar and René.

That summer, in the month of June, 1904, a meeting was held for the purpose of making plans to build a school. The trustees chosen were J. A. Edgson, Harry Lambert and W. M. Garrison. They decided to issue debentures to borrow \$800.00, to be repaid in eight annual installments. In October another meeting was held and correspondence regarding the borrowing began with the Department of Education, then in Regina as Alberta was not yet a

	W PIDSADOWSKI	BRANSON 05 W PIDSADOWSKI	S ARMSTRONG 06 D WOLF	R SCHMIDT 08 D FRASER	E SCHMIDT R SCHMIDT	D MOFFAT	
	G WOODCOCK 04 J A MERCIER H JONK	ALBERTA NATURAL/RESOURCES J JOLIVETTE	J LEYTON 06 A & R ZACZKOWSKI L PIDSADOWSKI	T HENRY 03 JACOB SCHLACHTER	F SCHMIDT J GOLLER	D MOFFAT A HOEART LENTZ J HUPPERTZ	
	J WHITESTEEN 03 I GARRISON S ROFFEY STEFFES W LEWKO	W MERCIER H JONK	R MOORE D WOLF	C V HOUGHTON E ZACZKOWSKI D ZACZKOWSKI	JIM CURLE 02 E ZACZKOWSKI D ZACZKOWSKI	H GOLLER C BREADNER W L SMITH	
TOWNSHIP 60 RANGE 26 WEST OF 4TH MERIDIAN	J A GIBSON STEFFES H JONK	F EDGSON 03 A ASHEY HUGHES L STERLING	J BEATON 03 R ZACZKOWSKI J PIDSADOWSKI	J GOUGEON J JENDRICK	S MEYHER J BHECKNY R MURFITT	W A LOGAN J D MALONEY E ZACZKOWSKI D ZACZKOWSKI	R M LOGAN D GRPY C BREADNER W SMITH
	J A GIBSON STEFFES H JONK	E J EDGSON VAN- DRE-F EDGSON SSARA ASHEY SON- HUGHES NICKL STERLING	C EDGSON 03 J EDGSON F EDGSON Jr J STERLING PRIMROSE H STIEGER	H WEST ALOIS ZACZKOWSKI NICKOLYSYN J&R COBBAN	W COBB A ZACZKOWSKI NICKOLYSYN F SIEGLE	H WEST L & E ZACZKOWSKI R RICHTER	J P WILLIAMS W GARRISON N GARRISON M & M SCHMYR
Edison S.D. #1029	S SOLLID B C ALTON CHEPPY W LEWKO	M ENGLER M ALTON B C ALTON C ALTON H JONK	M ALTON W STERLING B C ALTON C ALTON H ELLIOTT SCHYNDLER B AHERNE	LEO JOHNNY ANDREW ROSY & AGNES ZACZKOWSKI	LEO JOHNNY ANDREW ROSY & AGNES ZACZKOWSKI	C LAFORGE A GUNTRIP R RICHTER	C LAFORGE A GUNTRIP E KOPP S MARKO
	C EDGSON J MERCIER W MERCIER A MERCIER H JONK	J MERCIER W MERCIER H JONK	W GARRISON D GARRISON	W J BALDWIN L NORMANDEAU W WALTERMATH F PANKONIN K PANKONIN BOUGH	LEO JOHNNY ANDREW ROSY & AGNES ZACZKOWSKI	C LAFORGE A GUNTRIP R RICHTER AIRFIELD TOWN OF WESTLOCK	C LAFORGE A GUNTRIP E KOPP D HARYIETT
TOWNSHIP 59 RANGE 26 WEST OF 4TH MERIDIAN	J MERCIER W MERCIER D LANG	GIRARD M MCGINNIS	LEGALIER G BIRK FRITH E SCHWANKE R SIEGUIN	W J BALDWIN L NORMANDEAU W WALTERMATH F PANKONIN K PANKONIN BOUGH	CABUS & DOBY D PAUL C PANKONIN	R FRU 03 GEO BIRK GILBERT BIRK DUBOIS C PANKONIN	A FRU 04 GEO BIRK GILBERT BIRK DUBOIS C PANKONIN
	GAWALKO D LANG	DESALLIER H PIKE J ISSLER E SEMPF	BEAUCHAMP E SCHWANKE R SIEGUIN	J JOLIVETTE	CABUS & DOBY D PAUL C & K PANKONIN	BROWN 02 G LEFEBVRE F MARKO	AMY FORTIER 04 F PENNOCK F MARKO
MCGINNIS	T BERRY M BERRY	G JERKE J POLLARD	P WIER MRS JONK	H JONK	J LEGASSE J JOLIVETTE	AMY FORTIER A GINGRAS R RICHTER	DUKE OF SUTHERLAND L MCGILLAN A LAZARZ



Edison School.

province. Another meeting was held in November of that year, when it was decided a school would be built on a piece of land purchased from Harry West. Charlie Nelson was given the task of building the frame school house at a cost of \$625.00. It was completed by the spring of 1905. Taxes were levied on about fifty quarter sections at \$8.00 a quarter. Due to all the expense, there was only one good month of school taught. Alex McGregor, a young homesteader, obtained a permit to teach, and filled the need for a teacher for that short period.

The school was also used for church services. Miss Mabel Tracy, a daughter of a homesteader, who was soon to graduate from a four months teacher's training course in Regina, offered to teach for six months.

The school had three windows on each side, a blackboard all across the front and a small platform at



Edison school pupils, June, 1906. Front row: Norman Garrison, Leo Telfer, Ivan Garrison, Leo Beauchamp. Second row: Eric Telfer, Lloyd Garrison, Valmor and Renie Beauchamp. Third row: Goldie West, Antonnia Beauchamp, Elisa Telfer, Silvia West, Daphne Garrison, Leontine Legurrie, and Miss Tracy (Teacher). Back row: Vesta West, Jean Telfer, Alma Beauchamp, Tessie West.





First school at Edison — 1908.

the front on which sat an oak desk with two drawers, inside of one lay a two-inch-wide leather strap (which was used when needed) and the school bell. A long stovepipe extended the full length of the building, suspended from the ceiling with wire, entering the chimney just above the teacher's desk, and connected with the stove at the extreme end of the building. The idea was that the pipes would generate considerable heat and help distribute the heat, but as I remember, some days in winter it took till noon before there was much warmth, and lunches were often still frozen at lunch time. Across the back of the school were two long shelves, with the door between. These shelves held mitts, scarves, toques and lunch pails and underneath were rows of hooks on which to hang coats. A woodbox to hold logs for the stove, a



Edison School about 1946. Back row, L to R: Rosalie Sechney, ? Schlachter, ? Goller, Jack Sterling, Jack Schlachter, Celia Mercier, Daphne Garrison, Margaret Garrison. Centre row: Carol Sterling, Emily Sterling, ? Pichota, Lela Garrison, June Sterling, Betty Garrison. Front row: Albert Mercier, Edward Jendrick, Jim Sterling, Victor Schlachter, Mike Pichota.

wash basin and stand and a water pail with a dipper completed the furnishings. Later on a map case was added, containing a world map, a map of North America and one of the Dominion of Canada. There was also a bookcase to hold library books. The flag, a Union Jack, was tacked above the map case. A picture of their majesties, the King and Queen of England and Canada, graced the front wall. In later years Edison had the honour of winning an inscribed shield for having the best school gardens, a project of those early school years. It was a silver shield on a mahogany base, with two golden sheaves of grain in the centre and beautifully inscribed; really a lovely thing for those times. It hung plumb centre on the wall above the teacher's desk.

Teachers who taught through the years are as follows, as far as can be recollected.

1905	summer, one month, Alex McGregor.
1907-07	eight months, Kate George.
1907-08	James Pattullo, ten months.
1909-10	Alberta Sheppy. Ethel Sheppy finished the term.
1910-11	Clara Pattullo.
1911-	to Christmas, Clara Pattullo.
1912	Archie Brown
1913-14	Archie Brown. School closed in the fall of 1913, pupils were sent to Clover Valley until mid-October, 1914.
1914-15	Daphne Garrison.
1916	Mabel Hall for six months, Jan. to June.
1916-17	Daphne Garrison.
1918-19	Jessie Hotson.
1919-20	Mabel Overton, six months.
1920-21	Fred Lynn
1921-22	Jack Campbell.
1922	Mary Morrison.

Others were Jack Badner, Oliver Hough, Bill Montgomery, Bob Montgomery, Mrs. Bauer, Miss Rose, Mrs. Mary McGregor, Miss Rivest, Miss Walker, Mrs. Garvey.

Edison School did not enter consolidation for several years. Perhaps the reason was some were afraid of taxes going up, and also its situation just three miles from Westlock made it quite attractive to teachers, that it was never difficult to fill the position. However, in 1948 it burned to the ground, silver shield and all; the origin of the fire was not known. It was very quickly replaced by a school from Bouchard, and carried on for several more years, finally to be absorbed into the consolidated district in 1954, when it became part of the Westlock School Division.

### Edison School #1029 submitted by Jenny Sterling

The first school in the Edison area was held in a tent in the summer of 1904, in the shade of the trees on Harry West's farm. The teacher was a young Presbyterian minister, James McGregor. The average attendance was 12 pupils. These early pupils were

Lessie, Vesta and Sylvia West; Daphne, Lloyd and Ivan Garrison; Abel, Harold and Albert Nelson; Henry and Lizzie Meyer; and Sarah Beaton. He taught three days a week.

The first organization meeting of Edison school was in June 1904. Trustees were Jack Edgson, Harry Lambert and William Garrison. Another meeting was held in Nov. 1904, when it was decided it would be built on a piece of land purchased from Harry West, would be built by Charlie Nelson at the cost of \$625.00. Taxes were \$8.00 per quarter. After all this expenditure there was only enough money for a teacher for one month in 1904. The person of a young settler named Alex MacGregor who had a permit to teach. Next teacher was Miss Mabel Tracy, followed by Kate George, James Patullo, Mrs. John Sheppey, Miss Ethel Sheppey, Clara Patullo and Archie Brown. Other teachers over the years were (not in order):

Daphne Garrison (one of the first pupils in the tent), Mrs. Squair, Mrs. Overton (formerly Miss Mabel Tracy who taught earlier), Mr. Jack Badner (inspired us to draw), Mr. Ollie Hough, Mr. W. Montgomery and Mr. B. Montgomery (of hockey fame), Mr. Fred Lynn, Mr. Jack Campbell, Miss Ethel Lane, Miss Bernice Niely, Miss Rose, Mrs. Mary McGregor, Mrs. McMaster, Mrs. Garby, Miss Rivest, Miss G. Bauer (last teacher), Miss Walker.

In the early days of the school a child that got the wood, swept the floor and kept the fire going got ten cents a day as wages. The children took turns getting the water from the nearest home. Two girls scrubbed the wooden floor of the school before it opened in September for the fat sum of \$3.50 to be shared between them.

Many Christmas concerts were held over the years attended by everyone in the neighborhood and miles around. They were the highlight of the social season. The school was also used for early church services before the Methodist church was built.

Families that attended the school were: Garrison, Beauchamp, Legasse, Birks, Jones, Lefebvre, Fortier, Berry, Girard, Mercier, Roffey, Zaczkowski, Shepney, Schlachter, Goagen, Edgson, Pankonin, Normandeau, Waltemath, West, LaForge, Guntrip, Sterling, Fitzimons, Schindler, Wier, Ridby, Goller.

The original school was burned around 1950 or so and the school was replaced by Bouchard School brought in from east of Clyde. I remember a beautiful silver shield that graced the front of the school for the best garden in the school districts around about. Schools did have garden competitions, each child had a plot, had to care for it, plant and harvest it. There were also very good fairs held for several years with keen competition in penmanship, drawing, essays, butterfly collections, insect and leaf collections and sports.

Edison school because of its location was still

quite attractive to teachers, not being too far away from Westlock, still operated long after consolidation, but finally joined in.

## **Elk Park School by Mrs. S. Schmode**

The school which came to be known as Elk Park was built by Mr. J. Barker and was opened for classes in 1915. The lumber that was first purchased was burned by an unexpected thunder storm. There was a pile of lime on the lumber which the sudden rain caused to heat up, thereby setting fire to the lumber. A further supply of lumber was purchased or acquired and construction was completed.

The first teacher was Mr. H. McIlvenny, who taught for three years and lived above the school. This was the only school that I know of which had an upstairs, and which became the living quarters for a lot of the teachers.

After many years a barn was built for the horses which were the children's means of transportation to get to school. Instead of being a little red school-house, it was white and the trimmings were green.

The school became the community centre for the district. It was used for dances, church services, in fact, there always seemed to be something going on there. At the end of the school year we always had a picnic. No matter what age the pupils were, every child took part in races and other activities. This made them all feel they were equally important as it didn't matter if they won or lost, they were all a part of it.

In the summer the teachers organized ball games with other schools such as Clover Valley or Springfield. At Christmas there was always a concert and again every child took part. These were very educational as each pupil had to get up in front of the public and do his or her part. It was also necessary to memorize the parts, which helped to train the pupils to memorize their school subjects.

In the early years there were pupils from Clover Valley and the Duke of Sutherland's farm, who all came to Elk Park as their schools were closed down due to some financial difficulties. One year there were 49 pupils in Grades one to nine, all taught by one teacher.

The first school inspector was Mr. LeBlanc. He was very strict. One day, while he was in with the teacher, the children lifted up the back end of his Model T Ford and put blocks under the hind wheels. It was muddy, and when the Inspector came out from the school to go home he found the car would not move, so he came back into the school to ask some of the big boys to give him a push. Of course, he gave it



Elk Park S.D. #2962

J. SABOURIN 04 J. E. COURCH	F. FORTIER 05 P. KORDYBAN	L. FORTIER A. LATIMER
A. FORTIER 05 R. CANNARD	C. SABOURIN P. SABOURIN	L. FORTIER G. FORTIER L. FORTIER W. LATIMER
P. O'BRIEN 07 J. O'BRIEN	C. SABOURIN E. SABOURIN	A. DUSSAULT 06 R. GOWIN A. LATIMER

L. J. BEAUCHAMP 06	M. CANNARD G. CANNARD	J. SCHREINER A. SCHREINER	J. JOHNSON 1906 RAY JOHNSON	W. RICHEY 06 A. JOHNSON 07 P. O'BRIEN J. DUSSEALT	L. R. WILSON R. CANNARD			
J. H. NETHLAND 08 W. KRAMPS F. DOHERTY	J. BOUCHARD W & C POLOWAY	J. & K. SCHREINER M. SCHREINER	T. BROWN 06 P. MURRAY J. SCHREINER ELK PARK S.	EMORRISETTE 06 J. CHMILAR R. VANSEVENANDT	E & J PIERCE G. DUBOIS	L. R. WILSON G. DUBOIS	L. R. WILSON G. DUBOIS	
WATKINS F. ANHORN T. ANHORN	ALF PISCHEL 07 J & W POLOWAY P & W POLOWAY	M. BOURGAULT 07 J. SCHREINER	J. SCHREINER P. MURRAY M. SCHREINER	J. BOUCHARD R. FRU 03 G. CANNARD	A. J. FRU 04 A & R AQUIN	S. CHALIFOUX R. HEWKO		
W. POLOWAY C. POLOWAY	W & J POLOWAY P & W. POLOWAY	RAY JOHNSON	W. CHMILAR ELK PARK 2962	G. CAQUETTE V & J LUCHKA	L. BRANSON 02 A. A. STEFFES R & J LAPLANTE PRIESTLY	I FORTIER 04 LANOINETTE R & J CHAUVET	B. CHALIFOUX R. HEWKO	
G. MULLER 07 TAYLOR M. RIOPEL	W. POLOWAY E. POLOWAY	P. POLOWAY E. POLOWAY	J. HOECHELS C. NELSON P. LABELLE W. CHMILAR	M. BLAIS W & J LUCHKA	A. RIVET R. KITTLITZ R. VAN SEVEN- ANDT	A. RIVET J. THOMSON 09 J. SCHLAACK R. SUTHERLAND	T. POWELLS-05 R. VEZINA I. HOUT	S. TALLY 06 F. LECHIELT F. DECIAMPLAIN
J. LAMBERT 08 E. BLAIS P. KUCHMA	W. POLOWAY E. POLOWAY	P. POLOWAY	J. BIDDISCOMBE G. CAUVETTE W. BOKENFOR	F. HOECHELS S. SCHMODE	A. RIVET R. KITTLITZ R. VANSEVEN	ARIVET A. OLESKE	M. McLAUGHLIN 06 E. CHARLIER JEAN ROSKA	C. TALLY 03 F. LECHIELT E. DECIAMPLAIN

Highway 2

HIGHWAY 2

Elk Park School District #2982.

a lot of gas, and when they pushed him off the blocks, the car shot ahead, right into the fence!

Here is a list of the teachers who taught at Elk Park, but not necessarily in the right rotation: Mr. McIlvenny, Mr. Tracy, Miss Beale, Mrs. Bourgois, Mrs. Wilson, Miss Mocksford, Miss Pinchbech, Miss Cliff, Miss Critchlow, Miss Cummings, Miss Bishop, Miss Echenfelder, Miss Verret, Miss Ruby Sterling, Miss Matthews, Miss Stelke, Mrs. Wocowich, Miss Alberts, Miss Sevard, Miss Landry, Mrs. Jenner and the last teacher was Mrs. Bacon.

Miss Critchlow married Charlie Bacon, Miss Cummings married Sam Yoemans and Miss Bishop married Bob Tainsh.

Some of the Trustees we can remember were: C. Nelson, P. Murray, D. Brown, H. Ward, R. Johnson, M. Cannard, P. O'Brien, L. Wilson, W. Lanouette, A. Rivet, J. Biddiscombe, Mr. Watkins, T. Miller, G. Caouette and E. Charlies.

The school closed after the term of September 1946-June 1947. With its going also went the good old community spirit.

The Hazel Bluff School  
by Dorothy Baker

On December 12, 1908, the first meeting of the settlers in what was to become the Hazel Bluff District, was held to decide to form a school district. The first board members were: Robert Wheatley, chairman; C. E. Hall, secretary and William Lovell, treasurer.

It was decided to call a meeting of the ratepayers to discuss constructing a log school temporarily, until such time as one could be built of lumber. Ratepayers would be allowed to work out their portion of the cost, the amount to be deducted from their taxes. Mr. William Lovell was to be foreman and construction was to commence on January 11, 1909. The secretary was authorized to communicate with the Land Titles Office in Edmonton regarding the site on the south-west corner of SW¼-28-59-27-W4.

The first teacher was Professor H. A. Haynes, who taught for one year at a salary which was not to exceed fifty dollars a month. On October 8, 1909, wood for use as fuel to heat the school was purchased at two dollars a cord, delivered to the school.

The second term was very short. Miss Hattie



The first Hazel Bluff school. Mr. Levi Wilson in foreground.

Bell, the teacher, was paid fifty dollars a month. The board decided to pay the three dollars owing to W. Weidrick, store owner, for the purchase of a stove.

The next teacher was Miss Eva Gowan who commenced the term on June 12, 1911, but the school was without a teacher again in August of that year.

Late in January of 1912, it was decided to accept Miss Daphne Garrison's application to teach. She taught for sixty-two days and was paid one hundred and ninety-four dollars and eighty cents! School remained closed from May, 1912 to January 1913, when

TWP 59 RANGE 1 West of the FIFTH MERIDIAN	V AGNEW J JENSON G RENTON M MANDRYK	E S RENTON G MILLER T MAZUREK R & M BRAILEAN S MILLER	R WHITE H CROSS L LEHMAN	G LANCE P ANDREWS W MCKIBBIN E SCHREEN R SCHMIDT B & E IVEY	G GUEST Jr R BRODSUR ARTH INVEST- MENT E HUNTER DR DYKY A AITKEN	W SMITH W FORD P PROSSER M FORD JIM DAY O LINDBOE						
	A COLES G RENTON H MEHLEN SAFFIM A FISHBUCK	G RENTON A FISHBUCK	D BISHOP R&G GIFFORD R SCOTT F FLINTOFF	A PACKER H E STANTON J BRAND W STANTON G BEHIEL	G E STANTON H E STANTON E A STANTON	Wm BANGS H E STANTON L STANTON O LINDBOE	W LOVELL J MILLER F KILLBACK A&A MILLER M MILLER					
	C A DODD JUNCK D KLEMP W&G MILLER E DODD	C P LAND APPLGATE E WATT F COWIN L B SHAVER G&M BEHIEL	C P LAND F JOHNSTON A SHAVER L B SHAVER G&M BEHIEL	J HORRICKS MRS H STANTON W STANTON G BEHIEL E MCCORMICK J STERLING E A STANTON H&J LARSEN	H E STANTON J STANTON H&J LARSEN	C J JOHNSON T LAWRENCE J ERTMAN M ERICKSON R CRAIG G J DYK G&M UNGER G KRUGER	Chas HALL G E STANTON S KOSTIW E HARWARD Y KOSTIW A MCKAY J MILLER	J C BELL T EDGAR E WEILSON A SCOTT J SCOTT Y KOSTIW	TOWNSHIP 59 RANGE 27 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN			
	E DODD G ARMSTRONG W BYVANK K BYVANK	C P LAND T H CHATTEN A FISHBUCK S FISHBUCK	L B SHAVER G BEHIEL	F JOHNSTON STEVENS D MCLELLAN D CROSS	J BROWNLEE O LINDBOE R SCHMIDT B WEINSCHENK	W NANNEN SHIMKE J FESSENMEYER B WEINSCHENK	MRS LEFINE J DOWLING W GLOVER St LOUIS STANTON MacINTYRE BROS A E BAKER	R J McPATE EGAR STANTON J HAMMOND A E BAKER R&F KEPPY	J R BROST G BROST			
H&T CHATTEN A RAABER W RUSSELL O V BRUHJELL ADVENTURA HOLDINGS		H CHATTEN AGNEW A RAABER A SAUNDERS	R ROLLINGS A E EAST H E STANTON M REID R MERRILL D CROSS	S TRAIL R HARRISON T HOLLEY A E BAKER B WEINSCHENK	E LAURENT Wm GLOVER D G BAKER	G WOOD A MANNEN H LUNN H DRUMMOND A R BAKER A & E HOWIE C ZADUNAYSKI	J CAMERON R CAMERON J & D CAMERON	C HUFF J CLOUTIER A MacINTYRE J MacINTYRE	M MacINTYRE J R PROVOST G PROVOST J MacINTYRE	LOUIS FILION L MCGLONE W J KALLAL		
G DONKLOOR Z M REID R MERRILL D CROSS		H E STANTON J HORRICKS J R HORRICKS	A CAMERON A H BAKER D G BAKER	D LEGAY W JACK CHAS BAKER D LENT	S HORROCKS A HOWIE H MEHLEN A & A HOWIE C ZADUNAYSKI	A HOWIE G SIMPSON H DRUMMOND A & A HOWIE	J R PROVOST A HORROCKS JOS. PROVOST G PROVOST	ARNOTT A HORROCKS I MacINTYRE J MacINTYRE	E GENEST A TANCOWNY D MILLER			
CHAS HALL A PARTON J R HORRICKS		E WATT D LEGAY E E BAKER D LENT	D LEGAY E & E BAKER D LENT	W GOWRYLUK D LEGAY E & E BAKER D LENT	S ARNETT W E BAKER W & M BAKER A BAKER	W CAMERON DR SANDS ROGERS TRUETT C MOISANT E A BAKER J M BAKER	J G BINSTED W BIBBY G BIBBY	S HORROCKS S WHESTONE W W BIBBY				
S TONNANCOURE MRS B SANDISON J SANDISON JAS SANDISON MILLER		J DESHOUX W J BAKER W A BAKER	E VIOLET V VIOLET R GAGNE G BIBBY	T L CHURCHILL RIVET T BANKS E BAKER J BAKER	F W ALLEN A HOWIE A & A HOWIE C ZADUNAYSKI							

Hazel Bluff\*1905

Hazel Bluff\*1905



it re-opened for a nine month period and the salary paid to the teacher was sixty dollars a month.

On Monday, November 22, 1915, work was begun on the new school located on the south-west corner of 25-59-1-W5. The structure was 18' X 30' in size, with a six foot entry room. The school had to be painted, the yard fenced etc., to have it ready for the opening in the spring of 1916, when Miss Christina McDougal came to teach. A little later, a barn to house the horses the students used to get to school, was built.



Getting the mail from the box at the Hazel Bluff school corner.

During these first years, students came from quite a distance to attend school, so some of the quarter sections in the district were assigned to other school districts.

In 1926, with a growing school population, the subject of building a new school or remodelling the old one, was put before the ratepayers. It was decided to remodel the old school and make it larger. In 1929, the old barn and outhouses were replaced by new ones.

## Pibroch School District



Schoolchildren at Hazel Bluff, about 1942. Front row, L to R: Allen Howie, Nick Desjarlais, Eleanor Baker, Eva Mannen, Marjorie Cameron, Carol Howie, Joan Bibby. Second row: Ernest Stanton, Gary Reed, C. J. Sandison, Dorothy Pope, Jim Cameron, Elsa Schmidt, Jean Sandison. Back row: Mary Mannen, Mrs. Parton (Teacher), Alex Miller, John Miller.

In January, 1931, it was decided to hold any entertainment, considered desirable by the ratepayers, in the school. One of the most popular entertainments was the Christmas concert, and another, the year-end picnic.

The school continued to function as one of the community centres until the policy of centralization forced the closure of the school in 1952. Students would henceforth be bussed to Westlock School. School board members at that time were Archie Howie, chairman; Bill Baker, secretary and Ian MacIntyre as trustee.

The schoolhouse was sold to Jack and Dagmar Miller, who took it apart and built a house from the lumber, in Westlock. The barn was sold to Don Baker and the site is now, in 1982, a hayfield.



Pibroch School about 1916. Aaron Roddick, (Teacher), Guy Clesson, Mary Thachuk, Bea Rimmer, Ruth Short, Bill Raines, Frank McGee, Ed Raines, Ernie Gamble, Muriel Short, Joe Rimmer, Jim Rimmer, Bill Gamble, Walter Hough, Charlie Dean, Gerald McGee.

TOWNSHIP 61  
RANGE 27  
WEST OF FOURTH MERIDIAN

TOWNSHIP 61 RANGE 26 WEST OF FOURTH MERIDIAN

TOWNSHIP 61 RANGE 26 WEST OF FOURTH MERIDIAN

Pibroch S.D. 3410

TOWNSHIP 61 RANGE 27 WEST OF 4TH MERIDIAN	C WATLING F STEPHENS	L G MORTON C DEMMANN L J LAFORCE	SCHOOL LAND  ALBERTA ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES	C CUMMINGS  HUTTERIAN BRETHREN			
L R LOCKWOOD  HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	E S LOCKWOOD  HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	H H STERNS 13 G OPENSHAW E F LOCKWOOD	W McDONALD 17  HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	F HASTINGS 13 W McDONALD C CUMMINGS	H SAGE 15 H MILLER  HUTTERIAN BRETHREN		
L H JONES W C & D RIDDELL A YEREX	HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	W WOLF 16 L H ASHTON W J MURFITT HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	J MURFITT 17  HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	C REINHARDT 13 W J MURFITT  HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	J STRINGER 12    HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	F TOWLE 13 W CROSS  HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	
G HEROD HAZEL RIDDELL	A DUNLOP 15 H E REED C A WATLING J & E WHITE	H THACKER 14  W J MURFITT  HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	J SWARTZ 16    HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	J WILSON 12    HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	W KELLY 12 A MILLER T J RIMMER	MRS E MILLER 07 W H MARSHALL F ARMSTRONG C ENNIS HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	
J McINTOSH 13 W SEXTY R & D SEXTY	C K BROWN 09 E GIBSON G DEMUYNCK J & E WHITE	S McGREGOR 12 ALVIN YEREX STAN ADAIR	A MCKENZIE 12 A McLELLAN	W HOUGH 12 J M & K MORELAND	A MILLER 08 W J MURFITT  HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	A McGREGOR 12 W GURNEY JAMES RIMMER BRETHREN	
F JACKSON 09 T D WILLIAMS T J RIMMER ALBERT VANN- IEUVANHUYSE	T ROBINSON 11 J W RIMMER STAN ADAIR	E W DEAN 10 W W FARM & RANCHING LTD HUTTERIAN BRETHREN	J RIMMER 12 L H ASHTON G McLELLAN A McLELLAN	J RIMMER 11 LAURENCE RIMMER	A JAEGER 11 J BOWLING W O MOUNTAIN G STEPHENS W STEPHENS	A McGREGOR 11 M J PLAIN H PLAIN	
FRED GAMBLE 11 C&J NAVRATIL	C GAMBLE 11 W W FARM & RANCHING LTD	J IRVINE 09 W SEXTY GEORGE SEXTY	A IRVINE 09 M IRVINE	J STRAIN 11 J RIMMER LAURENCE RIMMER	J BOWLING 12 W O MOUNTAIN G K STEPHENS	P McGREGOR 09 A McGREGOR D&J McDIARMAID M J PLAIN H PLAIN	W R CLESSON 12 N & M GUNDERSON T SKINNER
E GAMBLE 11  F GAMBLE	E G GAMBLE 11 C S WILLIAMS W W FARM & RANCHING LTD	NATIONAL TRUST CO. J McINTOSH 09 H GAMBLE LEO & PHYLLIS RIMMER	T MITCHELL 09 A MITCHELL D N RODDICK D E & L WAHLUND	MRS J NETTLE- TON 09 MRS C MURFITT STEPHENS FARMS	J L NETTLE-- TON 09 N McNEIL E STANHOPE W J MURFITT W J STEPHENS	G F CLESSON 12 D & J McDIARMAID H PLAIN M PLAIN	E A SHEPPY 09 B E PEACOCK H R PEACOCK
J F GAMBLE  F GAMBLE	MRS M A WEBSTER 15 C S WILLIAMS D WILLIAMS	J A RODDICK 07 J E RODDICK C E & M S E KASBOHM & E	J E RODDICK 07 COX TILLER	A MITCHELL 08 W HOOD LEVINA WAHLUND	C I NETTLE-- TON 09 N McNEIL E STANHOPE W J MURFITT JR G K STEPHENS	A M RODDICK 07 G F CLESSON M J PLAIN	W J WRAGG 08 E GAMBLE M:GILLIES B E PEACOCK E LARSON
TOWNSHIP 60 RANGE 2/ WEST OF 4TH MERIDIAN	H KASSIN 15 M W PARSONS G R STUART						

PIBROCH Schools



# Pibroch East School District

TOWNSHIP 61		RANGE 26		WEST OF FOURTH MERIDIAN	
		C CAROLSON W WOLD			
28		27	<u>Pibroch East S.D.</u> <u>#4899</u>		
L G MAXTON S KAZIMIRIW		J PANTER			
P BERNECKI STEVE HUTTERIAN BRETHREN		THACHUK C KAZIMIRIW J PANTER			
21		22	24		
MRS M McGEE 16 T RIMMER 18 HUTTERIAN BRETHREN		W GURNEY P WARWARYCK		P MARREN B M RAINES D GERMANN	
				C M & J W MURFITT B K McLEOD	
D MILLER 07 P WARWARYCK		S THACHUK 13 S KAZIMIRIW		J VALEQUETTE 16 O M RAINES M J PLAIN DONALD PLAIN	
				C MARREN O M RAINES M J PLAIN DONALD PLAIN	
				C DUBOIS W RAINES DONALD PLAIN	
4		5	12		
V ANALSTINE 11 P WARWARYCK		F BERENEK 13 MRS A STEVENS PETER WARWARYCK		MRS L SMITH 10 L LANGILLE	
				P THACHUK 07 ALEX THACHUK	
				N THACHUK 07 AMELIA CARTY	
				C PARSONS J SANDISON A E MERCIER	
				A DAVIES PAUL MAZUR	
M H McCABE 11 O PEDERSON T SKINNER HUTTERIAN BRETHREN		E M VANALSTINE 11 J BANIK D CAMPBELL STANLEY HAYDUK		C RAINES 12 M RAINS C PARSONS SCHOOL LAND WALTER WOYNOROWSKI	
2		10	11		
W A STEEPLE 12 C PARSONS E J SEUBERT		G FERRIS 12 HUTTERIAN BRETHREN		SCHOOL LAND JAMES WALLACE	
				D PRIMEAU F ST JEAN 12 A KOWALSKI R ANDERSON	
				J GOUGEON 14 O DEMPSEY J GOUGEON J CAMPBELL C ST JEAN	
				J GOUGEON 14 J GOUGEON 15 H G McLEAN 15 J CAMPBELL E KOWALSKI	
		J LAGASSE 11 L BURGER JAMES WALLACE		J PATTULLO 07 J LAGASSE C ANDERSON 12 WALTER WOYNOROWSKI	
4				2	
		T W GARDE 15 N H LETTS J M WALLACE JAMES WALLACE		J SHEPPY 07 L B & J WALLACE J SHEPPY 07 R & K ANDERSON ROSE ANDERSON	
				H A CAMPBELL S GALE	



Cecile St. Jean (1) and Agnes Legasse in Pibroch school yard about 1934.



School transportation 1935 style, Pibroch East School.



Phyllis and Reg Gurney in front of Pibroch School.

### Poplar Knoll School by Fanny Sterling

In 1908, Poplar Knoll school was built on land donated by Mr. Strickhorn. One dollar was paid to him to make the deal legal. Tom Haywood, a stone mason, built the foundation and chimney, and also

plastered the walls and ceiling when the frame was built. The frame building was a community project.

There were many trustees over the years but Hugo Schmidt and Arthur Goodman were the only two secretaries.

The first teacher was Aaron Roddick. The first students were children from the Cole, Haywood, Smallman, Swatfigure, Calderwood, Garde, Rains and two Lebeau families.



Poplar Knoll School in 1920.

Among the many teachers who instructed through the years, the following come to mind: Daphne Garrison; Miss Bird; Miss Bell; Jack Dorsey; Miss Sheppy; Miss McDonald; Miss McDuniff; Mr. Forsyth; Mrs. Bone; Jack Campbell; Mrs. Soderman; Mrs. Granger; Miss Parridy; Mr. McPherson; Mr. McLaren; Mr. Manning; Gladys Spear; Lola Wallace; Dick Harris; Mrs. Lewis and Miss McAlpine.

During the second World War teachers were difficult to get, so Mrs. England taught a half term at Poplar Knoll and the other half at Reed Lake. The pupils were bussed between the two districts.

After the war Audrey Jorgenson, Elsie Parton,



The Poplar Knoll school 1930 (?). A special occasion — some parents and school board members present. Teacher Miss Kathleen McAlpine, back row third from right. Note hats.



TOWNSHIP 60 RANGE 26 WEST OF FOURTH MERIDIAN			H SCHMIDT C ST JEAN MRS S GALE		Poplar Knoll G.D. #1953		
RENALDSON 08 E GASTON J WALLACE H JONK	GREAT WEST M FOSDICK RENALDSON J LOVE J WALLACE H JONK	T LIFE M FOSDICK RENALDSON J W. LLACE H JONK	MORETZ 07 J COWLEY A GOODMAN MRS S GALE	SKINNER 07 J CAMPBELL MRS S GALE	W HUPPERTZ	TOWNSHIP 60 RANGE 25 WEST OF 4TH MERIDIAN	
ROSS 07 PERCH R COLE R DERAPPART V SHIELDS E COLE J WALLACE H JONK	GREAT WEST RENALDSON J WALLACE H JONK	T LIFE RENALDSON J WALLACE H JONK	P CARLSON 07 A GOODMAN MRS S GALE S SPARSHU	F LEBEAU 08 BROOKS C OTVIS W HUPPERTZ	T McCLEAN 08 W HUPPERTZ	ZACHAN 09 M DUSSEAU MIKO R HILL	
WALL 08 SLASHINSKY V BETSON E DUCHARME M ALLERS W ZOLMER WOLF	LAROQUE 03 R R MAW McDERMOT F TYMCO	PAQUETTE 03 LAROQUE McDERMOT F TYMCO	F LEBEAU C DECKER W HUPPERTZ	ROY COLE W HUPPERTZ	B FERGUSON 08 G HOPE S HUPPERTZ	J ENGLAND 07 G HOPE S HUPPERTZ	SCHOOL LAND BILL COLES
J DUCHARME A DUCHARME	C GREEN 03 Z LEBEAU 07 F RENAUD M HUPPERTZ	PAQUETTE 03 DERVALL P TROUTMAN F HAYES	C DECKER W HUPPERTZ	C DECKER HINDS W HUPPERTZ	H KLINE 06 A BRODBACK J BIGGEMAN W HUPPERTZ	F LANGTREE 08 J ENGLAND W HUPPERTZ	SCHOOL LAND D HARRIS L BIGGEMAN
P CLARET 06 J DUCHARME A DUCHARME	P MEHYR J MYERS ELLA LANE	E GOSHAU R ZACZKOWSKI Y LEFEBVRE SINCLAIR H WILL	G STRICKHORN 03 FORTIN A WALLACE	ROSENTWIST W SMALLMAN L RAINS	W SMALLMAN 08 J BIGGEMAN	E COLE 08 STUART F COLE W HUPPERTZ	T HEYWOOD 08 F COLE C RHODES ENGLER J HUPPERTZ L BIGGEMAN
SWATZIGGER 05 B McALPINE P PIDSADOWSKI	S HORAN J MOFFATT KOLANCHA SICKORSKI SINCLAIR H WILL	S HORAN W J MURFITT W BOMBAY KOLANCHA SICKORSKI SINCLAIR H WILL	F MEYER 03 A HOBART E SCHMIDT	ERDMAN 04 J MOFFATT S HUPPERTZ	J McMILLAN 08 B BREADNER D BLYTHE T CARRUTHERS W LARPLAS J HUPPERTZ	W BRADBURN 08 T CARRUTHERS W LARPLAS J HUPPERTZ	D BLYTHE 06 D HOBART J HUPPERTZ
P STEWART 09 W WESTERMAN J CAMPBELL H CHASE D FRASER	C CHRONIE 08 P TASSLER GOLLER E PIDSADOWSKI	C WORSHING 07 G BURBY E STOVER J COWLEY Y LEFEBVRE SKAGGS J SCHLACKTER	J LEBEAU 08 J HAUSER J SCHLACKTER	J LAFORGE J MOFFATT W J MURFITT S HUPPERTZ	H SCHMIDT 06 E SCHMIDT	MARCHANT TENNANT J WILSON SCHINDLER M LARPLAS HOOKE	

Poplar Knoll School District #1953.

Miss Chornisky, Mrs. Nicholson and Mr. Noel were the teachers, with Miss Enid Nicholson supervising correspondence lessons.

The main highlights of the school year were the Christmas concerts, end of term picnics, a few socials and dances.

The students had many experiences through the years. One girl had a needle left in her clothing and while riding her horse to school the needle went into her seat. The teacher noticed her restlessness so enquired as to the reason. She discovered that the needle had almost disappeared. The hardest part was removing the needle!

One of the Cole boys wanted a few days holiday. He thought that if the school had no toilet, the school

would be closed until a new one was built. He set fire to the little building but the fire caught in the grass and soon spread over the whole district.

One of the early teachers, Mr. McLaren, would call the roll, then on cool days would push back the desks and play cricket in the school. On the warm days they all went out to the bush and chased rabbits. As a result, his stay was for only a few months.

One lady teacher, who was easily upset by the pupils stunts, proceeded to throw books at the offending pupils, then would fall in a faint. The bigger boys carried her to the pump and proceeded to pump water on her. It was later learned that the said lady was pregnant at the time.

Among the many families who attended the



Poplar Knoll School and pupils. Note the bare feet, and the air-cooling system of the building. Mr. Dorsey is the tallest person at the rear. On his right is Lorna LaForge. In front of Mr. Dorsey is Lillian Heywood, and on either side of her are her twin sisters, Rose and Violet. The other children are Lefebvres.

school from 1908 to 1953 were the following: Allers, Biggeman, Betson, Bombay, Brunnel, Cowlie, Cole, Campbell, Calderwood, Dubois, Ducharme, Davis, DeRappard, England, Fortin, Goodman, Garegeon, Huppertz, Haywood, Hines, Haynes, Hope, Kolancha, Knott, Lefebvre, Lebeau, Laforge, Lane, Myers, McAlpine, Renaud, Rains, Skaggs, Smallman, St. John, Slashinsky, Schindler, Sickorsky, Stover, Shields, Schmidt, Troutman, Granger, Harris, Mayberry and Peter Myer children. When the school was closed in 1953 the pupils were bussed to Westlock.

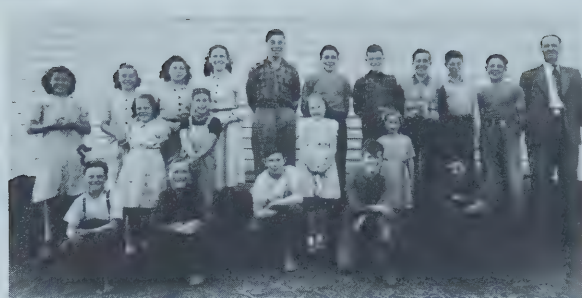
## Prosperous School

In 1927 Margaret Currey became the second teacher to teach at Prosperous School, and continued until 1945. In the early years the enrollment varied from eight to fifteen pupils, sometimes half of them being Grade IX students from Pibroch, Pibroch East and Poplar Knoll Schools.

The first families to attend Prosperous included the Taylors, Gillies, Campbells, Betsons and Myers. In the spring of 1928 the Frank Merryweather family arrived in our district, farming the quarter on which the John Noel family were living when Prosperous closed forever.

The first Grade IX class to graduate from Prosperous (June 1928) consisted of four pupils: Ella Myers, (now Mrs. Cecil Lane), Jennie Gillies (who married Dr. Don Hawkins and is no longer living), Frank Merryweather (now living at Tsawwassen), and Alex Thatchuk from outside Prosperous S.D.

From 1926 to 1945 and possibly longer the Alex



Prosperous School, 1948-1949 class. Back row: Emilia Blackburn, Emilian Blackburn, Stella Blackburn, Theo Noel, Julian Blackburn, Lionel Blackburn, Garry Nicholson, Evan Roberts, Norman Allen, Gorman Noel, John Noel (teacher). Middle row: Doreen Bower, Georgette Blackburn, Louise Bower, Vivian O'Brien. Bottom row: Allen O'Brien, Raymond Merkus, George McMaster, Pauli Zylmans, Lyle Noel. Missing: Viola O'Brien.

Campbell family provided excellent, faithful and reliable janitors: Lucy, Peggy, Alex, Ian, Malcolm, Penny and Colin.

Although Prosperous was an almost new school with new equipment in 1926 when Jim Smith came to live on N.W. ¼ 21-60-26-4th, he was most concerned that Lucy Campbell had to walk to school and start a fire in a cold building even on the coldest winter days. With great difficulty he persuaded the annual meeting to replace that new still shiny stove with a newer coal burning furnace. Mrs. Alex Campbell expressed her thanks many times through the years for this improvement.

Some of the men who served as members of the Prosperous School Board were: Tom Taylor, Matthew Gillies, Joe Myers, Bill Betson, Alex Campbell, Emil Miller, and Mr. Glen. There may have been others. Mr. Gillies was a most efficient secretary for many years. Relations between teacher and board were most cordial.

In the depression of the 1930's money to pay teachers became a very scarce commodity. Many Alberta school districts could not raise even the yearly minimum of \$840 as set by the Department of Education, so the Legislature decreed that \$740 could legally be paid if the Minister of Education found that paying \$840 would create a hardship for the school district. So at the annual meeting of Prosperous S.D. a motion was made that Prosperous apply for permission to pay \$740. Rising to speak to the motion Mr. Bill Betson pointed out that if a district named "Prosperous" had to apply to the minister of Education for permission to pay its teacher below the minimum salary it would be the laughing stock of Alberta. The matter was dropped.



TOWNSHIP 60 RANGE 26 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN

Prosperous S.D. # 3981

H J LINDBERG 12 MRS M RODDICK R S COX E KASBOHM & E TILLER	L G COUTURIER 13	H HALL 11 W G HUDSON J H TAYLOR	W G HUDSON 10 J TAYLOR D&E TAYLOR J TAYLOR R&A TAYLOR	C P R LAND W WADDELL J FOSDICK J A ZYLMAN F CHIMIUK	J CALDERWOOD 07 A WALLACE
G YULE 14 M McPHERSON E S COX C WILLIAMS T&W RIMMER	H McPHERSON C N COX E KASBOHM & E TILLER	J M THOMSON 09 E REDEKOP S C ALLEN H&E GAMBLE	D S THOMSON 10 E PLAIN LOUIS MODIN	C P R LAND D S THOMSON E PLAIN LOUIS MODIN F CHIMIUK	S GOWER 11 E D COLES A C COBBAN H&M VOLZKE
J T PROUDLOVE 13 U ROBERTS	J J THOMSON 09 E REDEKOP S C ALLEN H&E GAMBLE	SCHOOL LAND H S LANE	G&D NOEL	J HANSON 11 CECIL RHODES H&L ZOLMER	R J ARMSTRONG 07 E BERUBE MARY ZOLMER J MYERS E M LANE
A COUTURIER 16 S S B LAND W MANSEL W J O'BRIEN	P PROUDLOVE 14 J T PROUDLOVE EMILY ROBERTS URIAS ROBERTS	SCHOOL LAND W ARMITAGE EVAN ROBERTS	CHARLES GLEN JOHN GLEN	H C TAIT 09 L LARUE CECIL RHODES HARRY ZOLMER	M McALPINE 11 W H BETSON J MYERS 09 E M LANE
L McKNIGHT J L HIDE D STEPHENS	G L HANSEN 11 M GILLIES H&E GAMBLE J LECKIE G&D NOEL	E WERSHING 08 HOWARD SMILEY J M THOMSON EVAN ROBERTS	T D THOMSON 09 J M THOMSON URIAS ROBERTS	T D THOMSON JAMES SMITH D FERGUSON C J ZOLMER	WESTERN CAN. LAND CO. W McDONALD H G HENDRICKS W S & W HUPPERTZ J CASKNETT 11 J MYERS F M LANE
R L HARDY 17 J COWLEY C WIST E T LEAKE	W H BETSON 14 J NOEL A MODIN	C TAIT 08 J M LOOMIS F MERRYWEATHER G & D NOEL	G WEISEL 10 C TAIT F MERRYWEATHER	G HANSON J HANSON G & D NOEL	H PROWSE A CAMPBELL J RITCHIE 11 WESTERN TRUST COMPANY H HENDRICKS W S & W HUPPERTZ
	J M LOOMIS 16 M GILLIES W GILLIES L BLACKBURN G RENNIE A & E LEGG	WESTERN CAN. LAND CO. N JACOBS W L PLATT R LITTLE R BRUDER	F PATTERSON J BURNS A GROSS BAGNELL BROS. J & D SCOTT	P MORRIS 11 W REED H&A NICHOLSON A C COBBAN HORST VOLZKE BARBARA MUNKER	A ST JOHN 08 A CAMPBELL WESTERN CAN. LAND CO. J BAKER A J CAMPBELL A PELLETIER J H ARTS

Prosperous School District #3981.

However the next year it was impossible for even Prosperous to raise \$840. When Alex. Campbell Sr. as Chairman of the board went to break the news to Margaret Currey, he was so concerned that she felt almost as sorry for him as for herself. He promised that as soon as times were better her salary would again be raised. It was.



The first Grade IX class to graduate from Prosperous School in 1928. L to R: Alex Thatchuk, Jennie Gillies, Frank Merryweather, Ella Myers, Margaret Currey was the teacher (not shown).

Another year during the depression Margaret Currey resigned at the end of June, but a few days later, holidaying near Victoria, B.C. she apparently had a change of mind and sent a telegram to the Prosperous School Board applying for her old position. In that short time the Board had received 200 applications from teachers wanting to teach at Prosperous. Fortunately for Mrs. Currey they re-hired her.

In those days towns and cities could not hire married women as that would have been depriving the male head of the family of work. World War II changed that policy as so many male teachers joined the armed services that school boards had to hire married women teachers.

Not only were farmers plagued by the Depression but those in the southern part of our province suffered a very heavy drought. Among them was the Glen family. Their Southern Alberta farm simply blew away. This courageous family took their buildings apart, put them on a railway freight car and moved to the quarter section on which Prosperous School was located. Here they reassembled their buildings, planted crops on our rich soil and were again estab-

lished farmers. The children were welcomed to Prosperous.

About this time the Westlock and District Musical Festival was an important yearly event at which Prosperous School won many awards thanks in part to the lovely voices of the Glen and Blackburn children, and thanks also to Mrs. Glen who assisted at the organ and to George Currey, Choir master at Westlock United Church for many years, who helped train the singers.

Years later after Jim Goode became District Agriculturist and Mrs. McMaster was teaching at Prosperous, a Calf Club was formed which sponsored a choir under the leadership of Mrs. Glen that went to Edmonton to sing on the radio.



Prosperous School, 1983 location, owned by Dutka Plumbing.

The religious side of Prosperous was well cultivated by the Alex Campbell family, a devout Roman Catholic family from the Hebrides, whose son Colin became a priest, and the Taylor and Thomson families. Dan Taylor went to India as a missionary. Annetta Thomson and Robert Taylor married and went to Africa as missionaries.

Years later when they returned from Africa, Margaret Currey taught the second generation of Taylors in Westlock Junior High School.

During the depression and early war years the population of Prosperous was swelled by the addition of: the Emil Millers, Thomsons, Roberts, Glens, Blackburns, and still later Redekopps, Plains, McMasters, Noels, Nicholsons, and many more.

From 1927 to 1945 Margaret and George Currey lived on the quarter south and east of Prosperous School, with her father Jim Smith (he passed away in 1933). After their son Jim was born in 1942, it did not seem advisable for Margaret to stay where she would ultimately be teaching her son for nine years, so she resigned from Prosperous and went to Westlock.

The Curreys sold their farm to Dave McMaster and Mrs. Kate McMaster began to teach at Prosperous in September 1945.





Prosperous School.

During the years Mrs. Currey was teaching at Prosperous they had a large school picnic every June, to which friends from neighboring districts came to enjoy the sports, the good food, and the home-made ice cream. School was supposed to be in session in the morning but what with cranking the freezers of ice cream (something that even the smallest child had to be allowed to do) not much school work was accomplished. Mrs. De Rappard and children perhaps came the farthest to join us on those occasions.

When Mrs. McMaster taught at Prosperous they had a most enthusiastic baseball team which played in the McMaster field. Almost every Sunday Earl Elliott made and supplied ice-cream for the event.

Mrs. McMaster taught until she became very ill in October 1948. At this time Grade nine consisted of Emily Roberts, Colin Campbell, Roger and Lucienne Blackburn.

Mr. Noel then took over Prosperous. He was most interested in baseball. He taught at Prosperous until it was consolidated with Westlock, Mr. Noel, his pupils and the school building were all moved to Westlock.

ADIEU PROSPEROUS!

### The Racine School District No. 2143

The Racine School District No. 2143 was founded in about 1909. By that time many families had settled in the district such as the Racines, Frenches, Lamberts, St. Louis, Finnegans, Chamberlains, Otis, Breaults, VanNieuvenhyse, Deshoux and many others not known to this writer.

Three acres of land was donated on the S.E. corner of ¼ section 1-59-1-5 by a Tom Ouellette. An old shack was bought and moved on location which served as the school for three years, later was used as a barn to accommodate the horses.

The new school was built in about 1913. The first person on the school board was Mr. Miche Racine



Mr. J. Lambert (President), Mr. F. Lapierre (Secretary) of Racine School.

who had moved into the district in 1906, therefore the school was named after him. The farm house that he built in 1910 is still in very good shape and is now occupied by Roger Deshoux and family.

As there is no minutes of the meetings available, I have to write according to what people can remember.

The first members of the school board was Mr.



Children of Racine School taken 1938 at school picnic.

5<sup>th</sup> MER.

A & A MILLER		E DESCHAMPS	U FINNEGAN S FINNEGAN	L MIFY 09 W BAKER	L LAMBERT E HOULE	J SMITH 07 R CLOUTIER W BIBBY			
A VAN A MILLER	D FINNEGAN	A MESSAGE G MESSAGE	L LAMBERT E HOULE	L LAMBERT E HOULE	J HUDEC	J SMITH 07 O VICTOOR R HOULE	RACINE S.D. N <sup>o</sup> 2143		
A VAN A MILLER	A KELLY E DESCHAMPS	R FINNEGAN W FINNEGAN	M POPOLSKI D KLEMP	G ROGERS 07 A KELLY L LAMBERT I MORIN	D SMITH 07 P DESHOX J DESHOX	G CASLONG-- UAY 09 MARCEL DUSSAULT G DUSSAULT E GUELLY	J ROWAT 07 J GUELLY E GUELLY		
A VAN A MILLER	F DESCHAMPS H DESCHAMPS	F DESCHAMPS M DESCHAMPS	M POPOLSKI D KLEMP	A ASEURN 07 R RACINE N VERBEEK	L MORENGO P DESHOX J DESHOX	G WILSON 07 M DUSSAULT	L BLAIR 07 L SHELLEY		
		RACINE S.D.		CORRECTION LINE					
G HUCULUK J HUCULUK	L VALECOURT	J VERBEEK CAROLINE VERBEEK	J VERBEEK	M THOMAS 07 E RACINE R DESHOX	M RACINE 07 E RACINE R DESHOX	H WILSON 07 E RACINE J DESHOX	A HAMRL 07 J DESHOX J DESHOX	L DEMERS 09 N ST LOUIS	L FRADETTE 07 F SCHMIDT R ST LOUIS
R BOHNET	W SYMONS H DAHLIN	W SYMONS H DAHLIN	C RUDE A RUDE	N ST LOUIS 09 A ST LOUIS H TUCKER	C FRENCH 07 L FRENCH	J DESHOX J DESHOX	N GUEST 07 J DESHOX J DESHOX	J DEMERS 07 N ST LOUIS	
R WARD J J BREADON	A LOWE L LINDBERG	A LOWE C JESPERSON	C RUDE A RUDE	J ST LOUIS 08 J ST LOUIS	H ST LOUIS H TUCKER	E ST LOUIS	A ST LOUIS 07 A ST LOUIS	C BIRT 07 P DESHOX	
R WARD J BREADON	W BUCHOLTZ P GILCHRIST	H FINNEGAN S RAINES	J VERBEEK	M MCLEOD 07 F ONYSCHUK	F ONYSCHUK	J NADEAU	J BIGRON J ST H LOUIS LOUIS		

5<sup>th</sup> MERIDIAN

TOWNSHIP 59 RANGE 1 WEST OF 5TH MERIDIAN

TOWNSHIP 59 RANGE 27 WEST OF 4TH MERIDIAN

TOWNSHIP 58 RANGE 1 WEST OF 5TH MERIDIAN

TOWNSHIP 58 RANGE 27 WEST OF 4TH MERIDIAN

Racine School District #2143.

Racine, Mr. French, Mr. Courtney and Tom Ouellette. After 1920 Mr. Lambert and Mr. Lapierre were on for years. Clarence Rude came on later.

The first teachers to teach in 1909 to 1920: Miss Cantin, later Mr. Higgins, Mr. Stanton, Mrs. Potts and Mrs. MacInnes. 1920 to 1930: Miss Montpellier,

Miss Lavoie, Webb, Vaugois, Mr. Sullivan, Vandel, Gibeau, Lambert and Charbonneau. From 1930 till 1943 when the school was closed down: Albert Cyre, Lucien LaLonde, Olivier Arcan, Clyna Morin, Clara Tellier, Mrs. Morin, Egland Dubord, Blanche Fortier and Miss Dupuis.



# Riverdale School District

TOWNSHIP 60  
RANGE 1  
West of the 5th

			D SHAFER 11	W ASHTON 11 L SMITH				
		S FIELD 13	SYD DALY	Wm. WALTON				
			HAROLD GOLDER	NORMAN CLARK BILL LYONS	MORTON ROOGA 08 P & E LETTS	R B MILLER 09 D McMASTER L LANGE		
	W J FISHER	BEN MASSE	S E ALLEN 12 W PODLAWSKI	Q GOLDER E DURLING	DEGRAFF L SMITH	RIVERDALE S.D. N° 1534		
	W KING	E BRABAZON 07	E BRABAZON I BANNISTER	F HODGE 08	G H LETTS N LETTS	GRISWOLD 12 C MILLER	W H WILKINS 15 J TENNANT D FORBES	
		A LYONS	IRVIN BROWNLEE 07					
		A LYONS	N & A LETTS	TOM ELLIOT A LYONS	T W LETTS N LETTS	M MacDOUGALL 12 J MacDOUGALL	A R BROWN 06 A BABIAK	W KINSELLA 07 A BABIAK
	ALF CLARK 10 P & E LETTS	NELS CLARK 10 P & E LETTS	A CLARK P & E LETTS	S HART L LARDNER	S HART P & E LETTS	D MacDOUGALL J MacDOUGALL	R E WOODS 05 B LYONS	R WILKS 07 B LYONS
			RIVERDALE S.D.					
S SAWYER	D GEDDES 06 SCHABERT	ALF CLARK 05 SCHABERT	W H CLARK ELSIE HASSE	W L CAMPBELL P & E LETTS	P ANDREWS P & E LETTS	P CROSS KEN STANLEY	R TELFER 08 B STANLEY	C M TELFER 08 A BABIAK
								A LYONS 07 NACKULYK A LYONS
	RICHARDSON SCHABERT	W TENNANT SCHABERT	F JANSSENS	DAVE CROSS	W BROOKS P & E LETTS	B ALLEN KEN STANLEY	A TELFER 08 B STANLEY	MRS TELFER 09 C E LENDRUM A BABIAK
	THOMPSON G & E SCHABERT	H ALLEN SCHABERT	N STURZESTI 10 R JANSSENS	SEARS M S REED	W J NORRIS 08 GRANT WALKER	CHAS KINSELLA GRANT WALKER	C E LENDRUM 11 E VERHOEVER	
	DR PHILLIPS H & B ABRAHAM	E G LAIDLAW W G MILLER	F JANSSENS	G GUEST ERIC	O GUEST 08 GRANT WALKER	W L GUEST 08 KAI JENSEN		

TOWNSHIP 60  
RANGE 27  
WEST OF THE  
FOURTH  
MERIDIAN

Riverdale School District #1534.



Riverdale School 1936-1937.

## Springfield School District by Clara Brown

On May 10, 1906 the Springfield School District was established. The senior trustee at the time was H. Fawcett of Legal, Alberta.

On September 14, 1906, the School Board borrowed \$1,000.00 upon the security of the district, to build and furnish a school house, fencing the site and erecting the outbuildings. The treasurer at that time was Mr. H. E. Foote of Legal.

SPRINGFIELD S.D. No. 1495.

AS ESTABLISHED IN 1906

R BAERT R LAWLEY F RIVARD L RIVARD	R BAERT R LAWLEY F RIVARD L RIVARD	R VALIQUETTE P LAVOIE L RIVARD	R BORM A BORM W BOKENFOHR	W BOKENFOHR	S SCHMODE W SCHMODE R E BROWN	F MICHELET R E BROWN	W MORAND J DUBREAU	J DUBREAU	F DECHAMPLAIN
R BAERT R JERKE M PICHOTA P KUCHMA FRASER IMP CO	R BAERT R JERKE M PICHOTA P KUCHMA FRASER IMP CO	C ARCHAMBEAULT W CHILLEN E CHILLEN	MRS C ARCHAMBEAULT N LAVOIE MILLER J L EASTON D BUCHOLTZ H BUCHOLTZ S CHILLEN	W CHILLEN S CHILLEN W BOKENFOHR	J LAVOIE R E BROWN	G LABBY N BROWN	F RIVET J RIVET	D OLOSKE	D OLOSKE
G MORASSE O HITTINGER A BOISSONNAULT A DUBOIS A BUCHOLTZ	E VALIQUETTE A LAVOIE F LAVOIE R BROWN	J&F LAVOIE J&M KOSTIW S MAGAS SCHOOL	A LAVOIE F LAVOIE R BROWN SECTION	T LABBY MILLER J L EASTON A BUCHOLTZ	L LABBY M KARPLUK L PROULX	C BACON H CYRE FRASER FARM	C BACON H CYRE IMP. CO	J LABBY D RIVET T ARLOW J ARLOW	P PROULX L PROULX A PROULX
P DELORME S YEOMAN S A & E L YEOMAN	H R. FOOTE O HITTINGER A BOISSONNAULT A DUBOIS L BROWN	SCHOOL	SECTION	D HAMEL P LEONCHUK LES HODGE	H FAWCETT D LABBY	E CHARLIER A OLOSKE	A OLOSKE	J RONDEAU T ARLOW J ARLOW P MARTINEAU R PROULX	A MADAIRE A PROULX L HUOT
C MCCONAGHY T MCCONAGHY H&M MILLIGAN D&L DAY	L FLOAT H BUCHOLTZ R BROWN	T LABBY F RENOYD W CHILLEN E CHILLEN	L PROSSIER W SQUAIR MARY SQUAIR	W SQUAIR MARY SQUAIR	W BACON G BROWN M KRYSKOW W K SQUAIR	E BOURGOIS A KLANN H KLANN	W GARTIN A KLANN H KLANN	F MARTINEAU D PROULX D&L CHENARD	F MARTINEAU PROULX FARM
M MCCONAGHY D BROWN	L HOUGH C GREEN L ARNDT E FENSKE	V D PROSSIER W HAMEL R&R CORRIER	J M CHAUVET E BERGERVIN JOHNSON J&E POWELL	W SQUAIR MARY SQUAIR	H FAWCETT E CHAUVET P CHAUVET	F TRUDEL J GORSKI H KLANN	N BAUMCHERS P CHAUVET P & S STAN LEDET LIKOVIC	P CHAUVET	P CHAUVET
	E HAMEL N & A OUELLETTE	W FENSKE L FENSKE	J&M ZAHARY J&A SHERIDAN	J&M ZAHARY J&A SHERIDAN	H LUESON A & L COURSUAUX	L CHAUVET M CHAUVET	E PROULX R & Y DECHAMPLAIN	G DECHAMPLAIN C&R MICHAUD	





Springfield School, the new school and the last teacher was Miss Simone Borle. Some of the pupils are: Joyce Karpbeck, Marcel Cyre, Shirley Brown, (Miss Borle), Loraine Labby, Phyllis Brown, Norma Brown, Labby boys and Chilleen boys. About 1913-14.

The site was selected on January 24, 1907, being the south-east corner of NE¼ 12-58-26-W4. Who the first teacher was, I don't know, but in the summer of 1913 I was told to come to the school as pictures were being taken. Miss Mary Early (who later became Mrs. M. Bourgeois) was teaching at the time. Other teachers were: Miss J. Roy, Mary Morrison (Mrs. W. B. H. Squair), Jessie McDonald, Napoleon Lavoie, Miss Morin, Cecile Vandal, Rene LeBlanc, Henriette Charboneau, Mrs. Charles Clement, Marjorie Bacon and Simone Borlé, who was the last teacher we had.

In 1943 or 44, a new school was built; we were very proud of it. Many happy times were had there — Christmas concerts, basket socials and dances, etc. How happy and proud we were to see and hear our children on the platform, singing, reciting and



Springfield School about 1913-1914. Miss Mary Early (Teacher).

“doing their thing.” If I close my eyes I can still see and hear them in my memory.

There was efficient heating in the new school so the children would not have to huddle around the heater to keep warm in the winter any more. However, that didn't last long. The larger school divisions were formed and our children taken to Vimy to school. The school was moved to Mearns, but it burned down before any teaching was done in it.

Nelson Brown, my husband, was on the school board for a number of years, being a board member when the new school was built. J. Rivet is the only pupil that I know of, still living in the district who started school there in the very early years.

## Springwell School #4454

by Helen James

In December of 1929 the people of the district met at Kinsella's to lay plans to build a school. They had many meetings during the first part of 1930 and after getting permission from the Provincial Department of Education to build a school, a board of trustees was elected. Mr. A. Strome was the first chairman and Mr. Plymate was the Secretary-Treasurer of the first board.

After much discussion, they bought two acres of land on the NW¼-19-59-5-W1 from Mr. Henry Terhorst. Later in the year they contracted for the building of the school. After completion, the school was opened in February, 1931, with Miss Dorothy Parks as the first teacher.



Springwell School class, Helen James, teacher.

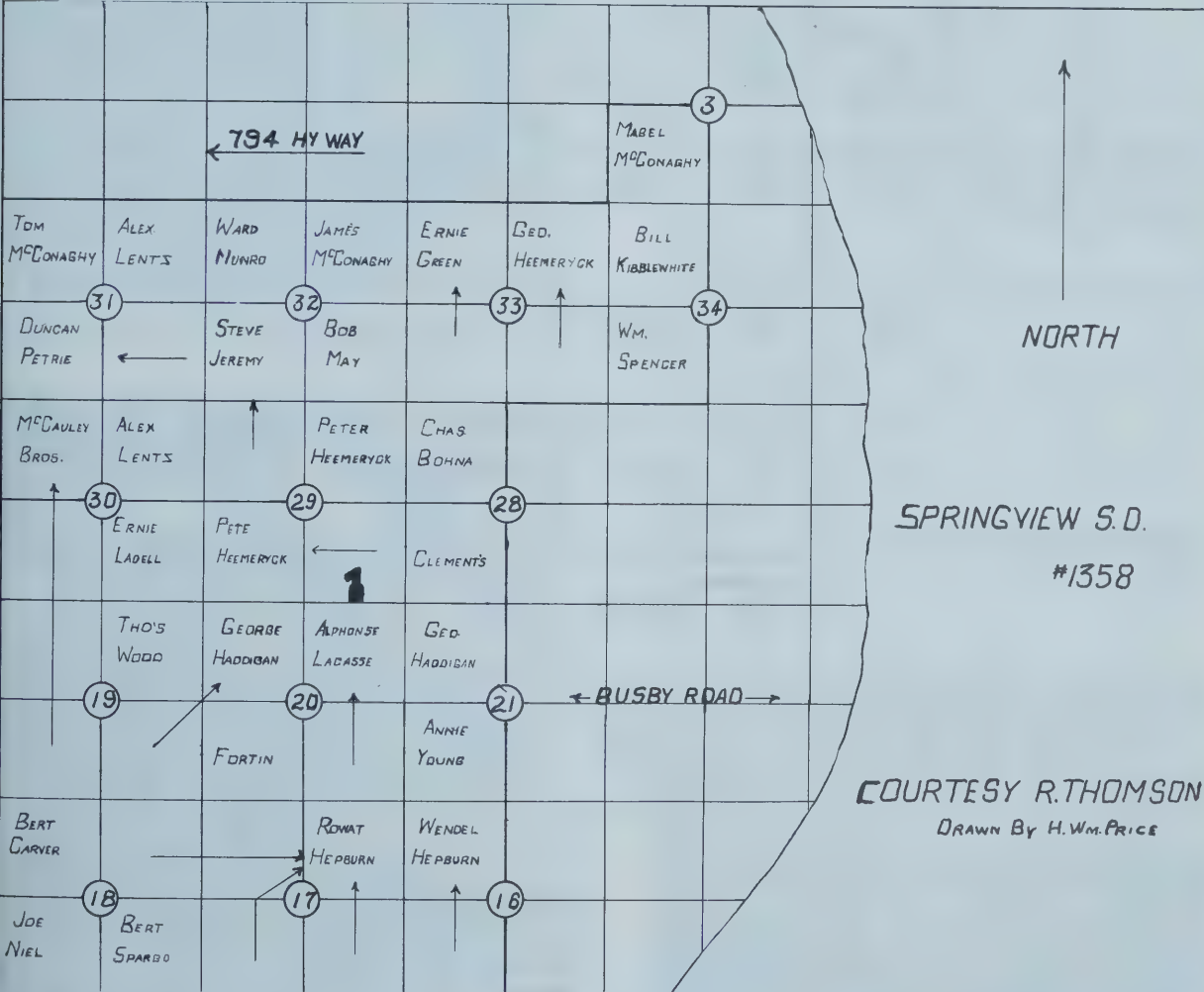
Over the years there were eight teachers: Miss Agnes Strome, Miss Agnes Kennedy, Miss Young, Miss MacDonald, Mrs. Anna Nicholson, Mrs. L. McGinnis and Mrs. Helen James.

Henry Terhorst was the janitor for years. It was some job in the winter trying to keep everyone warm.

In later years, the board hired different pupils as janitor.

One of the exciting things about rural schools was the Christmas Concerts. Many hours went into the preparation. Some years the program didn't go as planned, such as the Christmas when one of the younger boys had a severe case of stage fright and took sick on the stage, in front of a roomful of anticipating parents. Later in the evening Santa always appeared and this caused much excitement.

### Springview School District



Springview School District #1358.

### Sunny Bank School District No. 2771 by Dorothy Stephens (Letts)

Away back in 1912 the settlers of this district, which was later to become Sunny Bank, decided they needed a school. Several children were of school age,

and quite a few others were rapidly reaching the ripe age of six. The first official meeting was held at Mr. H. Hides' house, July 11, 1912. Trustees present were H. Hide, G. H. Letts and Ed. Wilson. From then on there was considerable correspondence with the

After Springwell School joined the Westlock School Division we went into Westlock for the annual Divisional Track Meet. The pupils always did our district proud by their accomplishments. It took nearly all my students from grades five to nine to field a ball team, but once there, we surely could play ball.

Due to lack of students, the school was closed in June, 1957, and the pupils were bussed to Westlock.



TOWNSHIP 60 RANGE 1 WEST OF FIFTH MERIDIAN	C MILLER	T S & K MILLER 12 C MILLER	T SMITH 14 E A SMITH ALICE SMITH E A SMITH	R W HAYWOOD A VANNIEU- VANHUYSE	R W HAYWOOD 17 E W DEAN	G RAFTER 14 W DINWOODIE P HOLMES H MORTENSON	P C SANDAGER 15 C PARSONS T HALL W SIXTY G SIXTY	
36 ANDY SMITH E & L BOON	33 R M TURNER 12 E C BOON L GRANT E & L BOON	W GRANT 11 R H GRANT E & L BOON	34 T KENNEDY 12 D & A LYONS	A F SHORT B FORBES W FORBES	35 H E LETTS R HAYWOOD H LETTS W LETTS	38 O STRATTON 12 S OWELAND F CLARKE	36 H HANSEN 14 W McALPINE R B STEPHENS	37 A KASSEN 16 W MANSELL L CLESSON G STUART
C MORRIS ED FELL N BRETTELLE P & E LETTS	R B MILLER 11 D McMASTER W H WIGHTMAN L LANG	H DALY 11 A ELLIOTT A & D LYONS	A SHORT 12 W FORBES	E J BEAKHOUSE Y GLENCHUK	G ONELAND 11 R STEPHENS	T F SMITH 12 H HAYWOOD W LETTS	W A McALPINE 10 J McCRAE L CLARK	H KENNEDY 15 O B STEPHENS R STEPHENS
36	28	L H THOMAS 12 E HUNT W URBACH H McVEETY A & D LYONS	27 J HOMAN 08 T KENNEDY E KENNEDY P LETTS	27 O E HAGAMAN 09 W WILKINS J C WILKINS O SMITH P SMITH	26 H ONELAND 11 R STEPHENS	26 H HAYWOOD 11 W LETTS	25 L D SMITH 10 J McCRAE W LETTS	L YULE 15 N W LETTS W O'BRIEN
G JENKINS O SWINGEN N HOLUB A J FAIRHOLM	MRS M SAWYER 10 MRS W ASHTON S SAWYER	A C SMITH 08 E HUNT C H DALY B BORBES	E HUNT 09 W LETTS P LETTS	W LETTS 10 L LETTS R STEPHENS	G H LETTS O STEPHENS	G STRUTHERS 10 J A McCRAE R HAYWOOD Y GLENCHUK	MRS H ATWATER 08 J R DYER C DYER	P B McNALLY 15 W J MURFITT L HIDE C STEPHENS
24	24	D McRAE 13 F LYONS D LYONS	F LYONS 12 D LYONS	E A LETTS 13 L LETTS N WOOD	23 G H LETTS Wm LETTS	J A McCRAE 08 L McCRAE V McCANN	J W THOMAS 08 J R DYER C DYER	24 W J MANNING 15 C WIST
		W McNIVEN 13 O MILLS A LYONS H HAHN F WOYCECHOWSKI	W H WIGHTMAN 12 O MILLS H HAHN	A STANLEY 11 E STANLEY	J MILLS 07 P CYRE P ROCHAT M COHOE	H HIDE 08 L HIDE J HIDE	MRS B ALTON 17 W H WIGHTMAN L HIDE J HIDE	
		G GRANGER 16 B E CAMPBELL O MILLS W LYONS	15 V T McNIVEN 13 A McNIVEN A LYONS	14 E STANLEY 12 A STANLEY E STANLEY	13 E W WILSON 08 F BROOKS W COHOE R BRUDER J HIDE	G L ADKINS 10 H HIDE L HIDE J HIDE	13 R WESTGATE 12 L FETTIT B AHEARN	
			A LYONS 07 C SHERWIN A LYONS E LETTS A LYONS					
			10					

Sunnybank School District #2771.

Dept. of Education, and meetings to discuss each issue.

During these early meetings other trustees were elected and others resigned. Among these were Mr. Short, Mr. Hagaman, Mr. McCrae and M. H. Haywood, and Mrs. Thomas as secretary.

The boundaries of the district were set and tenders for lumber were posted. Then came the tenders for building the school for \$525.00. Next came the business of borrowing \$800.00 for the purpose of paying for the building and furnishings. This sum was later changed to \$1000.00 as furnishings were high.

The name Sunny Bank was chosen by the Dept. from several submitted. The reason for this name was that at first it was thought that the school would be built one mile further east "On the Banks of the Wabash". This site however did not prove central. The location chosen was a three acre plot on the southeast corner of Sec. 26, T6, R27. W4th M. which was Mr. Oneland's land. This was given for the sum of one dollar. Years later Mr. Oneland said "I don't think your daddy ever did give me that dollar".

Finally in October 1913 a teacher was advertised for. A Mr. George Rafter, a young Irishman was accepted as teacher at \$60.00 per month.



Mr. James Renwick (High School teacher) and Miss Helen Sutherland, first Junior Teacher at Sunny Bank School.



Sunny Bank School. Mary Rowland, Nellie Martin (teacher), and Lillian Morris.

Then came the exciting part for us children. A first time school and a first time teacher, was really something to look forward to. It was a big event for the whole district as well.

The log house of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Letts was just across the road from the school, and was probably the only one then with room enough to squeeze an extra person in with any privacy, so that's where the teachers stayed. Mrs. Letts boarded teachers all through the Sunny Bank school years, later in a new and larger home.

Well, anyway, that day of Mr. Rafter's arrival, the board floors were scrubbed white, and I am sure we children were scrubbed too, while waiting for the teacher to arrive.

The first while, the scholars included Emily Struthers, Ray Struthers, Leslie and Clifford Hide, Martha Atwater, Verba McCrae, Nelson and Dorothy Letts, Orlin, Floyd and Clifford Hagaman, and George and Ralph Stratton. Soon after, Silas, Maude and Ruth Short came. Also Orton Stephens and Harry Letts came, and later, Muriel Short. These were all with our first teacher.

In the next few years, Milton and Cuthbert McCrae, Blake Letts, George Hunt, and Margery, Margaret and Sarah Kennedy were old enough to attend. Soon Franklin, Mary and Harold Wightman joined the growing number. We have no access to old school records so there may be some omissions. Other families in the district at this time, or before long, were; Miller, Stanley, Elliot, Daly, Boon, Mills, E. A. Letts, H. Haywood, Dyer, Rochat, MacAlpine, Beakhouse, Parsons, Smith, Whiteman, Morris, Swingin, Bannister, Overend, Stephens and R. Haywood.



Mr. Renwick's class at Sunny Bank in 1931. Sara Kennedy, Doris McCrae, Lillian Morris, Dora Parsons, Ross Stanley, Mary Rowland, Charlotte Haywood, Agnes Kennedy, Myrtle Hunt, Velva Campbell and Mr. Renwick.



I don't remember much of Mr. Rafter's teaching ways, but we all adored him and were saddened when he enlisted early in the war of 1914-18. He was confident of returning but was killed in action.

An older man, Doctor Wortman, was hired to finish the two months of the school year.

We had our next teacher for a longer time. He also was Irish, James McCorry. He was good to us and we learned a lot in spite of the extra freedom, such as sitting around the big Waterbury heater on cold winter days.

During his stay, social events developed. Almost every Friday evening there was something special at the school house, including box socials and programs of all sorts. Very often the program was a debate or a mock trial. Mr. McCorry was interested in law. These mock trials were well acted and very humorous. Ira Smith, a local bachelor was pianist for these gala events. The school Christmas concerts were always very special, too.

While Mr. McCorry was teaching, Charlie and David McMaster moved into the district and joined the other big boys at school. By this time the Mac-Alpines were of school age, and the families of Manning and Brooks moved in. Mr. McCorry also left us for the war. He was in the air force. Later he studied law and had a practice in Kitscoty for many years.

Our next two teachers were ladies, very strict and proper. First Miss Henrietta Roy, who I believe was our most exacting disciplinarian then Miss Agnes McAllister. Both were lovely ladies, as was also our next short time teacher Mrs. C. Cameron.

From then on school progressed in much the usual way with a succession of teachers and pupils starting and finishing school.

Then in 1929 the district felt the need of a high school. This materialized and Mr. James Renwick was hired as High School teacher. He filled this post very ably for many years. He had a very high percentage of pupils graduating and going on to important positions in life. While the High School was open quite a few pupils came from surrounding areas as Riverdale, Sunnibend, Pibroch and Pembina Heights.

In the early 1950's the consolidation of schools came in and the pupils were bussed to Westlock. This consolidation put an end to our much loved Sunny Bank school district #2771.

During the years between when I finished school at Sunny Bank and when I returned to teach there in 1926, and also later during the years of Sunny Bank High, other people could give more details than I know.

## Memories of School Days at Sunnybank School District 2711

by Maisie (Donnelly) Platt

These were the very best days of my life.

I was an only child, but was lucky to have three step-brothers, Cliff, Donald, Nick and one step-sister Doris, all older than myself. They didn't have the pleasure of going to Sunny Bank School. When at school I felt I was a member of a big wonderful family. We were all in the same boat — "poor" money wise but rich in love and laughter. We all shared what we had.



Sunny Bank School. Maisie Donnelly and friend.

When we gather together for coffee or a meeting or reunion picnic we say how lucky we were to have had a teacher like Mr. James Henry Renwick. This teacher would spend his small salary to buy us marbles in the spring, bat and ball, footballs, etc. We as students always remember him. He ruled with a firm hand. Some students became nurses, doctors and also teachers. Boys and girls had to play all games together to make enough for teams for softball, football and even hockey.

Wonderful memories remain with us forty or more years later. One is our pot-bellied stove. In winter our lunches would be frozen stiff so we would toast them on the stove. What an aroma! There were odors from sandwiches of beef, pork, cheese, jam, you name it. We had it! How we knew our own is a mystery to me. Our socks and mittens were placed



Sunny Bank School. Teacher Miss Martin, 1932.

around the stove to dry also. In another corner of our school was the water pail from which we all drank with one dipper. The water was carried by us from across the road at Mr. and Mrs. Harry Letts Sr., with ice on it in the winter or hot in the summers.

Our teachers all boarded at Mrs. Lett's home. For noon hour we were left by ourselves to hold down the fort. In the hour we got busy and learned more than the three R's. Somebody would take down the teacher's violin or mouth organ. We would move the desks to one side and have a great old square dance, waltz, tap or highland fling while somebody watched to see if the teacher was returning. Our school windows were quite high to see out, but by sitting on a couple of books, we could see passers-by like Tommy Golder's team of eight horses pulling the ice to town to the creamery, or a threshing outfit going by. One day we were so interested that Mr. Renwick lined us up by



Sunny Bank School pupils: Back row: Sara Kennedy, Dora Parsons, Doris McCrae, Rosa Stanley, Lillian Morris, Lois Stanley. Front row: Charlotte Haywood, Agnes Kennedy, Myrtle Hunt, Hattie McAlpine, Mr. Rennick.

the fence. There we had to stand till the whole outfit passed by. This was his way of punishment but I'm not sure how well it worked.

All of our days were not fun days. Two or three times a year the school division would send out an inspector to ask questions of each grade. If we did know the answer we were too shy or scared to answer.

Once in a while the doctor and nurse would come to give us an inoculation or line us up and everybody who had bad tonsils had to have them out. The schools were used for many things, not to forget the great Christmas concerts where we sang the lovely Christmas carols still popular today.

During the week or on stormy days it was "cow-boy" songs. Some of the boys were really gifted and could yodel like Wilf Carter.

We had rural mail delivery and rural telephones so in this way we could all get on the line together at a given time and do our homework and all have the wrong answer the next day in class. We didn't fool our teacher. He was wise to our good idea. Friday was a day to look forward to. It wasn't a rip and tear night like today, but we would all gather at the hall a mile and a half away from the school and dance till dawn. The price to get into the dance was twenty-five cents and the girls free if they took some lunch. The money taken at the door paid the orchestra and bought coal oil or gas for our lamps. The hall was heated with a wood stove.



Sunny Bank Ball Team, July 1, 1948. At back: Barry Stanley. Second row: Orley Campbell, Ted Boon, Bernie Forbes, Clayton Dyer, Chuch Durling. Front row: Rudolph Smith, Philip Beakhouse, Harper McCrae.

Our teacher used to call this building we were so proud of, a barn. Friday noon we girls set up a hair dresser salon and would curl one another's hair for the dance. Teacher would tease and say it looked like we were going to the barn tonight.



We didn't have a caretaker at the school like they do today, so a student was hired by the school board to do the job. I had this job for a number of years and earned fifteen cents a night but I was glad to have the job and the money. We were given a cheque at Christmas, Easter and in June.

At this time Sunny Bank had a Junior and Senior school. While the new school was being built, classes were held in the hall. At the time, we took a team to school. The horses names were Spider and Fly. They were not speedy but they got us there on time.

The first school was built at a cost of \$525.00. O. Hagaman was the contractor. The land was bought from H. Oneland for the sum of one dollar for three acres. The one dollar made it legal.

Trustees were Mr. Harry Hide, Mr. G. H. Letts and Mr. Ed Wilson in 1913.

Mr. O. Stratten got two dollars for the first ten cords of tamarac wood.

Mr. George Rafter, our first teacher, was paid \$60.00 per month.

Our high school was built in 1929-30. Mr. James Henry Renwick was the teacher. His salary was \$1200.00 per year.

## The Swallowhurst School by Dick Adkins

The Edison School was operating early in the pioneering days but the distance was too far for the children, west of what is known as Westlock today, to travel, so in 1908 the pioneers in what was then known as the Swallowhurst District, decided to build a school on the homestead of Rev. Smith. Today, the location would be known as three-quarters of a mile west of the town limits. In those days we called it the baseline, but today it is known as Highway Eighteen.

Before the district could have a school, it was necessary for there to be fifteen pupils to register.

				F DOKE W LETTS	C MACK W KALLAL	MISS M THOMPSON 11 REV. TRENCH W MCCABE TOWN OF WESTLOCK	M WESTGATE 09 J PLATT W LETTS	R HARDY C WIST G BOYD					
				W LYONS 11 B LYONS A LYONS	C LYONS 10 C SHERWIN A LYONS A LYONS Jr	J G ADKINS 06 W ADKINS R ZURFLUH R BRUDER	C F LENDRUM 10 R WESTGATE O H HUNTER R HAMMER- MEISTER	W McDONALD E KALLAL	TOWNSHIP 60 RANGE 27 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN				
				D FORD 08 D LYONS	S A SERIP 09 J BROWN G LYONS	W BRETTELLE 08 FRASER R BRUDER G JONES	J A ADKINS 11 R BRUDER M PARSONS	C B HAMILTON 09 M COHOE E W COHOE	M ADKINS 08 C MACK R HAMMER- MEISTER	W MCGREGOR 09 E SESKUS D WATKINS	H CRASTENSON 07 J WAGNER R BRUDER		
TOWNSHIP 60 RANGE 27 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN				A F MCCRAE 09 C MURFITT D LAZZER C PECKHAM	J McCRAE 09 G LYONS	S SERIP 09 A BROWN E BRYK	S J WEAVER 08 A ADKINS J ADKINS E HEATHER L BROWN	F W HOBSON 06 F KENNET GOLF COURSE	C F KING 10 J BRUDER R BRUDER	J ALTON 12 B ADKINS J KRISHNER	D SMITH 08 R HIDE W LEWKO	B B KELLY 11 R HARDY H PATTERSON A JANKE W MARKS	
				Wabash S.D.				Swallowhurst S.D.					
W DAY S OLSEN R OLSEN				F GENEST 08 Y KOSTIW	R J WHEATLEY C GUEST Y KOSTIW	J F LEAKE 10 A BROWN E BRYK	D A EVANS 06 J BAXANDALL M KOSTIW G BROWN	MRS G EVANS 11 T ASHBY DR DEACON McFARLANE & BRUDER	L GUEST 11 R LITTLE R BRUDER	ALF ADKINS 06 B ADKINS	GEO MILLS 07 ROY HARDY H PATTERSON A HARKE B WATLING	F McDONALD R NELSON	TOWNSHIP 59 RANGE 27 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN
A WILSON 10 S OLSEN R OLSEN				J A BELL 08 F VANSICKLE M KOSTIW	G CRANE 07 F BUNCE M KOSTIW	C E LEAKE 10 A MCGLONE	W FERGUSON 06 MRS GRANT A MCGLONE	S GRAVISTON 09 W ARMSTRONG A STANTON	W J WOOD 09 R GUEST R RUSKENVELD	B CORBET 08 S ASTLE J ELLIOTT	F McDONALD R NELSON		
A B BELL F BUNCE C PRIVOST A BROST				F BUNCE 08 J BROST G PROVOST	R LENDRUM 12 T HAMMER- MEISTER	A G HOBSON 09 J SCHAAAB	W CROOK 12 W ADKINS RON ADKINS	MRS E WOOD 09 B GUEST R RUSKENVELD	G GRAVISTON 08 PADDY & WEINER M ARNDT	H MURRAY 09 PADDY & WEINER M L ARNDT			
J BROCHU 08 G PROVOST				G GENEST 08 R HAMMER- MEISTER	C LEAKE 09 W GUEST R RUSKENVELD	W CURRIE 12 J SCHAAAB	H W MANTON 08 W TANSONNEY JACK BRUDER	B ENGLISH 08 BROST BROS NEILSON JANKE G NICOL	W H MURRAY 08 A JANKE R NELSON				
												C McCABE	
Swallowhurst S.D. #1815													
Wabash S.D.													

Swallowhurst S.D. #1815

Wabash S.D.

Unfortunately, at the time the school was proposed, there were only fourteen children who were of school age, so a girl who was three years old was registered to bring the number to fifteen. She just played with sticks, and chalk and a slate for the first two years. Her name was Sheila Adkins. She had one sister and two brothers attending the school, so she was quite at home there.

The Swallowhurst School operated for six years, and the first Teacher was Miss Hill, followed by Miss Higgs, Miss Bell and Miss McNiven. The pupils who registered were: —

Lois Adkins	Ray and Cliff Hide
Elmer and Herb Alton	Ray and May Alton
Harvey and Muriel English	Arthur and Hilda Crook
Herford Nunn	Jim, Bill, Barb and Sheila Adkins

As more homesteaders moved into the area the number of children grew, and I believe one pupil's name was Daisy Wildwood and there was a boy they called Hallet, as well as two more boys named Eric and Leo Hunt and a girl named Lizzie McGregor. Before the school was built in Westlock, a few pupils came to Swallowhurst.



The original Swallowhurst School which was moved to Westlock and became known as the "Tin" School. It is now a store on main street.

When Westlock got a school, the Swallowhurst School was not central enough to accommodate the children living east of the Hazel Bluff area, so in 1914 the Swallowhurst School was closed, and a school was opened at the east side of the present golf course. It was called the Wabash School, probably because it was close to the Wabash Creek.

In the Fall of 1918, Swallowhurst School was moved to Westlock, and was, I believe, opened for junior grades for the Fall term in 1919, being used regularly until the Red Brick School was built in 1925.

The history of the old Swallowhurst School, after it was used no more for a school, would fill a book. The old building must be the oldest structure in Westlock, second only, if at all, to the house Ed Missal purchased from Agnes and Rosie Zaczkowski and moved into town from the Zaczkowski farm.

## Trail's End School No. 4292

by Annie Price

"Go west, young man," was the common expression used in the early days, so many men, women and children did just that, and in a very short time the need for a school arose for the children in the settlements, so a few people in this area got together and formed a school board to see what could be done about it.

The first meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Randall Lecky on May 10, 1927. Mr. Karl Hanson was elected chairman and Mr. R. Lecky as Secretary-Treasurer. It was moved and seconded that they send for the free building plans, supplied by the government. After much discussion it was decided to buy, for forty dollars, five acres of land on the NW¼ 11-58-27-W4.

Two thousand dollars was borrowed to build the school, which was constructed by Mr. Westlin. This building was large enough to accommodate 40 pupils, and was named Trail's End. The school was opened November 1st, 1927, and the first teacher was Miss Edith Marsden, at a salary of nine hundred dollars a year. A few children came from the Advance School as Trail's End was closer for them to walk. A school board meeting was held every month.

What an experience it must have been for the teacher on her first day, coming face to face with her first class. What were her thoughts, I wonder? Who was the most nervous, the teacher or the pupils?

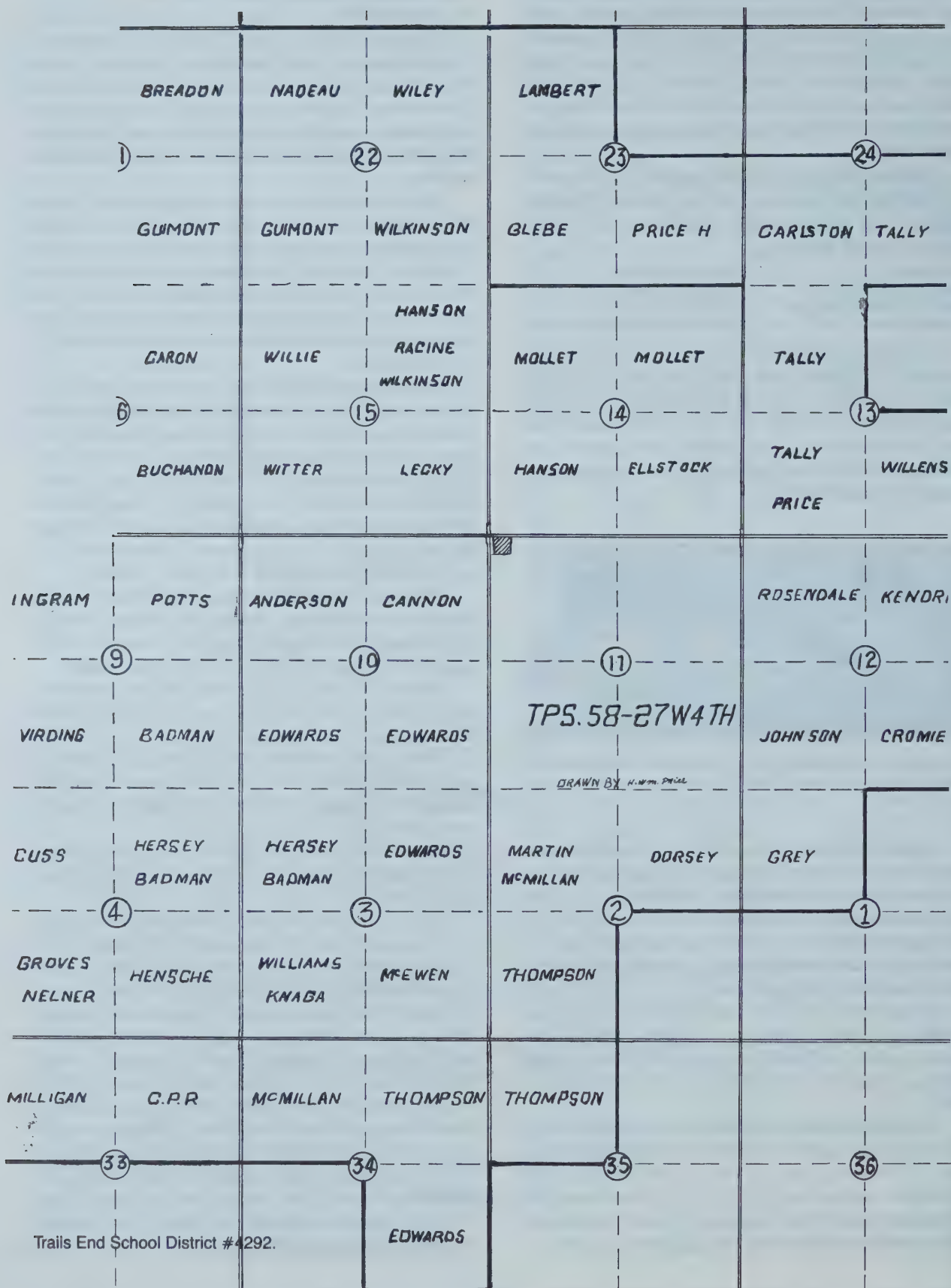
At that time Mr. J. J. Leblanc was the inspector, and when he came everyone had to be on their best behavior, you may be sure!

The teachers really had their hands full, teaching pupils from grades 1 to 8, all in the same room, and sometimes to grade nine, for which they received an extra fifty dollars.

As time went on, and taxes were slow at coming in, the salary got as low as six hundred dollars for a year's work.

In many areas, the teacher boarded with a farm family, as there was no teacherage in the school yard. In time a small shack was bought from Albert Smith for two hundred dollars, and it was moved close to the school. I am sure the teacher was invited out quite often to different homes, which was greatly appreciated by her, but she must have had many a lonely evening. No T.V.'s in those days. Some children walked to school, and others were lucky enough to have horses to ride or drive. Very different from the warm yellow busses that pick them up now. Many a lunch was frozen by the time they reached school, but hopefully it would be thawed out by lunch time. Crunchy potato chips are one thing, but crunchy sandwiches are very different!





Trails End School District #4292.



Trails End School #4292.

It was necessary for the school to be warm when the pupils arrived, so a janitor was paid to get there early to light the fire. Their duties were many and varied; sweep the floors, dust the desks, scrub and oil the floor once a month, clean the toilets (outside!), clean the stovepipes once a year and have fresh drinking water every day, all for five dollars a month. In 1936 coal was available from Mr. Sutherland's coal mine, so that maintained the heat a little longer.

A lot of wood was needed for fuel during the first years, so a farmer would bid for a job of supplying five cords of wood, cut thirty inches long, half green and half dry. This was to be split, hauled and piled in the school yard, all for five dollars a cord.

Anyone remember the strap kept in the teacher's desk? Oh yes, she was allowed to use it when necessary. Times really have changed, haven't they? No school was complete without a flag, which at that time was the Union Jack, so each child donated a few cents and a flag was purchased. In those days, too, if you broke a window you were expected to pay for it to be repaired.

All work and no play makes life rather dull, so the question of sports came up, and someone suggested that a letter be written to Percy Page, coach of the famous "Edmonton Grads Basketball Team" and ask him for the rules of the game. In a very short time they were delighted to receive the instruction book and a basketball, so they were very soon enjoying the time of their lives playing basketball. Other games they played were baseball, tag, red light etc. In 1931 times were hard and taxes were not paid too quickly, due to poor crops, and the bank balance was in the red. Cash on hand was \$18.83 and unpaid bill amounted to \$581.75. There was talk of closing the school, but somehow they managed to carry on.

At one meeting it was suggested to change the name from "Trail's End School" to "New Advance" but this was defeated.

At that time lamp chimneys were fifteen cents, a wick was five cents and coal-oil was ten cents a gallon.

The school was the centre of social life with summer picnics, and with all those homemade goodies such as icecream. Another highlight was the Christmas Concert, which no one would miss. There was the glittering Christmas tree, and homemade decorations (made by the students) hanging around the classroom. Proud parents and grandparents came, hoping that Susie's halo wouldn't slip during the angel scene, and that Johnnie would remember his lines. Oh yes! Those were the days. Santa always managed to arrive, after getting lost a few times, and all the children received a bag of candy and nuts.

The last school board meeting was held on February 11, 1950, and starting the next term, the children were bussed to the Busby school as the schools were centralised and all business was handled by the Westlock School Division.

As far as we can learn, these were the teachers who taught at Trail's End School during the years it was operating:

Miss Edith Marsden	Mr. H. Myers
Mrs. A. R. Dean	Miss Sutherland
Ruth Bell	Miss Ruby Gander (Practise Teacher)
Miss Esther Pritchard	Miss Middleton
Mrs. Alma Parton	Mr. Andrusyshyn
Mr. Joseph Wynne	Mr. Frederick
Mrs. J. A. Fuhr	Miss H. Watson
Miss D. Moore	Mr. Walker

The school building was sold to Mr. Leroy Krisher and remodeled into a home, and is situated just north of Busby.

### Vermillion Springs School District #1619 submitted by Don McMillan

The Vermillion Springs School District came into being on April 29, 1907. The first board consisted of Joseph Frankland, President; George McMillan, Secretary-Treasurer and T. A. Powell. The first meeting authorized the issue of a debenture for seven hundred dollars to purchase land and build a school. One acre of land was purchased from James McMillan on the NW8-58-26-W4 for twenty dollars.

The bush was cleared from the school grounds by Mr. Fred Wirtz for twenty dollars. Nine thousand nine hundred and eighty-eight board feet of lumber was purchased from Joe Brickman, operator of a local sawmill for \$116.78. It was hauled to the site by Mr. H. C. Tally and Mr. M. Caton for \$52.50. The finishing materials and windows, including brick and lime for the chimney were purchased in Edmonton for \$80.50. Mr. J. E. Vanatter hauled this material and built the school and out houses for \$132.55.

The first teacher, Miss Mary Kelly, was hired and



TOWNSHIP 58				RANGE 25		WEST OF THE		FOURTH MERIDIAN				
						V BEAUCHAMP E OTTO	C P R F ANHORN T ANHORN					
SCHOOL LAND												
Vermilion Springs S.D. #1619												
SCHOOL LAND						A PETITJEAN H McILVENNY E PAGE	G LOUITT R PAGE	C P R S PHILIPS E JENKE P ROY				
						C TALLY BLAIR J JESTL POLAIKIWSKI	C P R A RIOPEL RIOPEL BROS.	C P R S PHILIPS E JANKE	O HOFMAN FITZGERALD A C DURSTLING R PAGE			
						C TALLY H PIPEKE N & A BRETELLE	C P R F MOYNES PROVOST L PROVOST	C P R F MOYNES PROVOST C PROVOST	S NADEAU J & K BEST J DESLAURIER G CZECH			
TOWNSHIP 58 RANGE 27 WEST OF 4th MERIDIAN						J McLAUGHLIN R McLAUGHLIN	M McLAUGHLIN PUBLIC TRUSTEE	S A TALLY H PIPEKE N & A BRETELLE	C P R F MOYNES PROVOST L PROVOST	C P R F MOYNES PROVOST C PROVOST	S NADEAU J & K BEST J DESLAURIER G CZECH	
R ABLE J McDONALD L PAGE						E TALLY G TALLY A TALLY	J McLAUGHLIN R & D McLAUGHLIN	C P R J McLAUGHLIN W BURNS R BURNS	C P R J McLAUGHLIN W BURNS R BURNS	F VALIOUETTE J VALIOUETTE B COURNOYER M & N MCMILLAN	T ARCHAM- BEAULT O MURIER S CHILEEN W POLOWAY	C P R R BEART R LAWLEY L RIVARD
H TALLY J ROSENDALE C ROSENDALE W BUCHOLTZ						J FRANKLAND W CROMIE A CROMIE	C P R S S B J MATEAR E WALKER LITZENBERGER G MCMILLAN LY DETTMAN	C P R S S B J MATEAR L MCMILLAN N MCMILLAN	F WIRTZ G MCMILLAN C YEOMANS P LAVOIE L RIVARD	A PFLANZ S YEOMANS Sr S & L YEOMANS	C P R R BEART R JERKE M PICHOTA P KUCHMA	
J JEREMY B ANDERSON						CACHEAU V KELLY E KELLY D MCMILLAN	J MCMILLAN G MCMILLAN L MCMILLAN	G MCMILLAN L MCMILLAN N MCMILLAN	C P R G MCMILLAN Sr L MCMILLAN M MCMILLAN	C P R J LAVOIE P LAVOIE L GAGNE	G MORASSE HITTINGER A BUCHOLTZ	
DeNOYER WITHERAL PEACOCK BERG V KELLY G MARTEL						DeNOYER WITHERAL PEACOCK BERG V KELLY G MARTEL	C TALLY T MCMILLAN D MCMILLAN	J VANNETTER E WIEDRICK A & K WIEDRICK	C P R J VANNETTER E WIEDRICK A WIEDRICK	C P R J NEWTON D CROMIE K WIEDRICK	P DeLORME S YEOMANS Sr S YEOMANS Jr	
J FRANKLAND W MUNRO H HUNTLEY						M CATON SUMMERVILLE W VANNETTER T MCMILLAN E MCMILLAN	M CATON G MCMILLAN T MCMILLAN D MCMILLAN	H SEIBERT J TAYLOR P HERIVEAU	W DURDLE W McCONAGHY R JOHNSON V SEIBERT	C McCONAGHY T McCONAGHY H MILLIGAN D DAY	C P R McCONAGHY T McCONAGHY H MILLIGAN D DAY	
W SEALY W MUNRO H HUNTLEY						T MCMILLAN M CATON G MCMILLAN D MCMILLAN A LENTZ F SONGHURST E HOUGH W OLDBRUG	WILDRIDGE J MATTHEWS D BROWN	H SEIBERT J TAYLOR P HERIVEAU	D NORMAN G MCMILLAN A MCMILLAN G MCMILLAN Jr	W McCONAGHY COUETTE A MCMILLAN G MCMILLAN		
						T McCONAGHY W. Griener						

began teaching on March 1, 1908. Some of the first pupils were Fred, Lilly and Benji Durdle and Orville, Edmond, Lulu and George Tally. For the first few years school was open only part time, or some years not at all because teachers were not available. The children would then walk three or four miles to another school in order to receive some education.

School taxes were assessed directly by the school board in the early years. The first assessment in 1907 was seven cents per acre, and in 1910 it dropped to 1¼ cents per acre. After 1912 they began to rise and have been going up ever since.



Vermillion Springs School #1619. Class 1944-1945. Back row, L to R: Norma Kelly, Lloyd Tally, Louis Yeomans, Norman Johnson, Joyce Kelly, Charlie Yeomans, Edna Tally, Doreen Stewart, David Tally. Front row: Eva Tally, Jay Yeomans, George McMillan, Olive Tally. (Teacher) M. Shamchuck.



Vermillion Springs School. Back row: Tom McConaghy, Bert McConaghy, Doris McConaghy, Pauline Seibert and John Stewart. Middle row: Firmin Provost, Leon Provost, Lois McConaghy, Joyce Kelly and Florine Seibert, Olive Kelly and Thelma Phillips. Front row: Norma Kelly, Roxanne Provost, Lois Yeomans, Doreen Stewart and Lucy McConaghy.



Former pupils at Vermillion Springs restoration, July 21, 1967. Back row, L to R: Albert Cromie, Chris Rosendale, Arnold Wiedrick, Bob Burns, Vernon Seibert, Tom McConaghy. Front row: Ronald McConaghy, Tom McMillan, Loyd McMillan, George Tally — one of the first pupils, Sam Yeomans. Seated: Don McMillan, Everitt Kelly, Keith Wiedrick.

In 1923 the School Board decided that the heating system should be upgraded so they bought a coal-burning Waterman-Waterbury heating system which was a large upright heater enclosed in a tin jacket through which the air circulated. As there was no one to install the heater, it was left out in the snow for the first part of the winter. The ratepayers were furious, paying \$245.00 for a coal burning heater when there was lots of wood in the country and then leaving it out in the snow. However, before the annual meeting the Board got the heater installed and although it was a cold day the school was as warm as toast. There was hardly a word said about the cost of the fancy heater!

Janitor work at the school was usually contracted to one of the older students in the school. His duties were to provide drinking water, sweep the floor, which needed to be oiled once a year, get to school early to start the fire in the winter and keep the barn cleaned out, as transportation to school was provided by horse.

Vermillion Springs school consisted of grades one to eight. Very few went beyond the eighth grade as they needed to help on the farm or left home to see the world.

There wasn't any organized sports during the noon hour or recesses so the children were on their own. This usually resulted in the bigger boys getting the best of the smaller ones. One winter the snow drifted over the board fence deep enough to be holloed out for a fort. Some of the smaller ones were





Vermillion Springs School, 1908. First Class. L to R: Fred Durdle, Miss Mary Kelly (Teacher), Lily Durdle, Edmon Tally, Orville Tally, Lula Tally and Benjie Durdle.

locked in the dungeon when the bell rang. Everyone ran into the school leaving them behind to get out on their own. After being late and a tearful explanation the snow bank fort was put off limits.

About 1945, Miss Sophie Derko organized an industrial tour to Edmonton. As there were no busses Tom McMillan volunteered to drive his farm truck. With makeshift benches and a canvas over the top it was quite comfortable. One of the places visited was the CBC radio station where everyone crowded onto a platform and sang a song for all of Northern Alberta. This adventure to Edmonton was the highlight of the year.

An annual event at Vermillion Springs school was the Christmas Concert. Every child in the school had a part in it and they were all equally important except that my child was better than yours.

In 1947 Vermillion Springs School District was transferred from the Sturgeon School Division to the Westlock School Division. School centralization was just starting to take place. In 1948 the decision was made to centralize so in March, 1949 we said goodbye to Mrs. S. Yeomans, the last teacher at Vermillion Springs and moved to Busby.

The old school was taken over by the Echo Hill Womens Institute. During Canada's Centennial in 1967, the W.I. restored the old school to its original condition and added a concrete footing. The interior is furnished with desks and other equipment as it had been for many years so that future generations can see what a rural school was like.

## Vimy School District #3585



Vimy school pupils 1935-36.

Violet Hill School District

			G. M <sup>c</sup> LAUGHLIN 02	G. M <sup>c</sup> LAUGHLIN 02 M. ALLISON				
			N. FORBES 02 TOM THOMAS S. PETERSON	M. ALLISON M. ALLISON		Violet Hill S.D. # 1903		
	BILL KOLLRUS J. BOUTIN	R. M <sup>c</sup> KARVIN 02 S. LAZARZ S. LAZARZ	J. BENNET 02 T. THOMAS J. WALCER Bachmiller Lazarz	J. WHITING ALLISON LAZARZ	24	25		
S. MILLIGAN 04 D. HARYETT D. HARYETT	R. MILLIGAN 04 W. BROWNLEE H. BROWNLEE	DUKE OF SUTHERLAND CON JOHNSON W. ANDERSON		J. TURNBULL 03 M. GIBSON CON JOHNSON	Mrs J. CHAPLOWSKI R. SHAPPY K. SEIGLE			
R. MILLIGAN 04 J. MESTON W. MESTON	A. MILLIGAN 06 W. BROWNLEE H. BROWNLEE	21 DUKE OF SUTHERLAND C. WORKMAN R. B. M <sup>c</sup> LAUGHLIN		J. BENNETT 03 TIGHE TAINSH S. M <sup>c</sup> LAUGHLIN Mrs. B. M <sup>c</sup> LAUGHLIN	22 J. ORCHARD 03 J. DECHAMPLAIN	23 A. JONES D. SEIGLE	24 R. CORNFIELD 06 J. LEINDECKER 06 E. C. DAGG L. CHAPLOWSKI D. SIEGLE I. GILLES	
DUKE OF SUTHERLAND LAND CO. 10 E. & A. CHAPPEL S. SISSONS		J. EDWARDS 06 H. NICHOLS M. YAREMKO	J. DOBBIE 04 C. LAForge J. YAREMKO KORDYBAN	DUKE OF SUTHERLAND 03 D. M <sup>c</sup> LAUGHLIN A. JONES M. JONES	A. KNOTT 05 H. CHISHOLM J. D <sup>c</sup> CHAMPLAIN	R. CORNFIELD 06 M. MUELLOU D. SHANK	J. E. HESS M. PATRY J. HESS M. PARRENT	
DUKE OF SUTHERLAND LAND CO. 10 E. & A. CHAPPEL S. SISSONS		A. NICKOLLS 07 J. PIERCE I. NILSON D. SHANK	A. MARSHALL 04 N. MAIN L. WILSON I. WILSON	DUKE OF SUTHERLAND 05 D. M <sup>c</sup> LAUGHLIN A. JONES M. JONES	C. KNOTT 06 R. M <sup>c</sup> MILLAN J. DECHAMPLAIN	W. BEST 06 R. SHANK D. SHANK	E. SABOURIN R. SABOURIN W. VAN-LOWENSTEIN	
J. WARREN 05 F. FORTIER W. KORDYBAN	D. REID 06 B. BISHOP M. FORTIER	Mrs. R BISHOP R. E. STANTON	I. GIBSON B. GIBSON	M. GIBSON 05 E. DEMPSTER R. ZADUNAYSKI	E. DOBBIE 05 L. HUOT L. HUOT	L. HUOT P. SHANK D. SHANK	J. TAYLOR 08 F. PARRENT M. KORDYBAN	J. CORNFIELD 07 MUELLER R. SABOURIN

Violet Hill School District #1903.



Violet Hill School.



Violet Hill School. L to R: Mrs. W. Sterling and George Sterling. Lizzie Brown, Dave Brown, ?, Russel Sterling, Rita Sterling.





Violet Hill School in its rural setting.

## The Wabash School

by Dick Adkins

The Wabash Schoolhouse was, I think, the poorest schoolhouse in the district; just a homesteader's shack! It had two windows and a door on the south side, two outhouses, one for girls and one for boys, and a small barn. It was built on the banks of the Wabash Creek so we had lots of fun in the winter time sleigh riding on the hills. If my memory serves me correctly, it opened for the fall term of 1914 and closed at the end of the 1918-1919 school year in June of 1919.

The teachers at the Wabash School were Miss Leake, Miss Belle, Mrs. Wilson, and Mr. Burr. The students were Fred and Tom Bunce, Sam, Henry and Martin Werner, Laurence and Emma Cunningham, Lillie and Gilbert Gilberts, Alfred Evans, Russell and Charlie Brown, Bob, Walter and Marian Guest, Herb, Roy and May Alton, Mary Bruder, Norman and Harold Brettelle, Golden, George and Edward Carmicheal, Gladys Wilson, Gladys Woods, Archie, Minnie and Ruth Howie, Mary Ann Pollard, Barb, Sheila and Dick Adkins and Albert Summers. As I think back, this small building called the Wabash School, which was about 18' x 24', must have been awfully crowded with about forty students in it, yet they got some good education there. I think Golden Carmichael and Gladys Wilson were the only two students who took up professional teaching as a career. Russell Brown took a District Agriculturist course. I do believe Archie Howie, Barbara Pollard and myself are the only three persons still living in the district that went to the Wabash School.

I don't know whether things have changed today,

but back in the days when the Swallowhurst and Wabash Schools were operating, there was one visitor that used to come that every teacher and pupil dreaded to see and that was the School Inspector! I can't remember any one parent ever coming to the school to complain to the teacher about "lowering the boom" on their children. The teacher had the authority to punish any of the pupils he or she thought needed straightening out. That is the way it should have stayed, as there was real discipline then. I recall a soldier, just back from World War I, being invited to the school to tell us about the experiences that he went through. That was quite a highlight for us.

With more children coming into the district to start to school, something had to be done about overcrowding, so it was decided to consolidate with the Westlock Schools and bus the country pupils to Westlock, and that is still being done today.

## History of the Westlock School District

by Dick Staples

When the railway arrived at the townsite of Westlock in 1913, there were only a few school — aged children in the area surrounding the new hamlet. Most of these walked to Swallowhurst School which was a little over a mile west of the new townsite. It was a one-room frame building sheeted with tin ("The Tin School"). There were about fifteen to twenty students in Grades 1 - 8. Some of the early teachers were: Miss Hill, Miss Hue, Miss Hicks, Miss F. McNiven and Miss A. Bell.

In the fall of 1918 Swallowhurst School was closed and the students went to Wabash and Westlock Schools. In the spring of 1919 the school building was moved to Westlock and located on Main Street across from the present Whissell Clinic. The "Tin School" still stands on this location after serving as a classroom from 1919 to 1925, the U F A Hall, the theatre, Shesky's first store, the A & A Meat Market, and most recently as an antique, crafts and second-hand store, called "Yesterdays."

On January 2, 1915, the Westlock School District #3208 was established by the Department of Education. The area included extended roughly one and one-half miles east and west of what is now Highway #44 and #794, and two miles north and south of Highway 18. Mr. Julien LeBlanc was appointed official trustee of the new district by the Department of Education. Mr. J. W. Shutt was the first secretary-treasurer.

Most of the information in this account of the early days of the Westlock Schools has been gleaned from old timers, from newspaper clippings and from teachers who had taught in Westlock, as almost all



Fred Lynn, former Principal of Westlock School with Jean Beatt.

records before 1943 were lost in fires or destroyed. Since these gleanings are often contradictory, it proved difficult to be certain of some of the details.

One of the most prolific contributors to this history was Mr. Len Hergott, who was a student in Westlock until he graduated from Grade XI in June of 1922. Later he taught here from 1923 to 1928. After teaching for almost twenty years, Mr. Hergott spent over twenty-eight years with Pioneer Grain, first as a grain buyer and later as an accountant in the Calgary Office. It is reported that Len's father built the first hotel in Westlock in 1913-1914.

Mr. Hergott started school at Swallowhurst in the fall of 1914 and then attended the first school in Westlock in the fall of 1915. He recalls that the first classroom was on the upper floor of a store on the corner of the baseline and main street, owned by Jess Bell. Later the store was moved to the north-west

corner of 107 Ave and Main, where the lower floor still stands. Miss Achse Bell, who had taught in Swallowhurst the previous year was the first teacher in Westlock.

Another version is that the first school in Westlock in 1915 was held in the Methodist Church which had been moved in from Edison in 1914. It was located on the south-west corner of what is now 104 St. and 99 Ave. By this version, Mr. Hugh Stanton, who later became a school inspector and then a barrister in Edmonton, was the first teacher. A newspaper clipping published on March 3, 1963, supports this position.

However, the records of the Department of Education show that on October 20, 1915, ministerial approval was given for the erection of a school on Block 17 of the townsite of Westlock. On October 21, 1915 the sum of \$1500 was borrowed on the security of the said district for the purpose of purchasing the school site, fencing the same and erecting and equipping a school house.

The new school ("The Little White School") was built on the west side of the present school grounds, just east of Dr. Whissell's present residence. (From Dept. of Ed. records.) In the spring of 1916 Mr. George Dieffenbaugh, the first carpenter in Westlock, with the help of volunteer labor, completed the construction for the opening that fall.

This original school was used as a classroom until 1925, and at various times after that as the need arose. In the 1960's it was moved to Mountie Park, where it still stands.



Westlock "Tin" School. Probably about 1921 or 1922.

Somewhat ironically there was no well on the school grounds for some length of time and the students carried water from the livery barn which was on the present site of the Immaculata Hospital. In spite of conflicting reports, it does appear that Mr. Hugh Stanton was the first teacher in this new school



(actually the first school building in Westlock) in 1916-1917.

In 1917-1918, Miss Mahoney, a member of the famous Edmonton Grads Basketball Team, taught grades 1-8 in this building. She resigned in June and opened a restaurant in Westlock called "The Grill" which lasted for only a short time.

In 1918-1919, Miss Mahoney was followed by Miss Lillian Bowen, the daughter of the Reverend Bowen who was in charge of the Westlock, Hazel Bluff and Eastburg churches.

In the fall of 1919 a second classroom was opened in the tin school. Mr. Smiley was in the white school with grades 6-9, and Miss Pearl Jones was in the tin school with grades 1-5. Later, Miss Jones married Bill Bangs. In the spring term it appears that Mr. Burr, who formerly taught in Wabash, replaced Mr. Smiley, and his wife, Charlotte Burr, took Miss Jones' place.



Grade IX, 1946-47 Westlock. Back row, L to R: Robert Watt, Fred Zacek, Kenneth Roy, Robert McKean, Donald Bacon, John McDougall, Donald Adkins, Jimmy Waddell, Kenneth Weise, Steve Rybak, Ronald Rytz, Jim Bentler. Middle row: Frank Beach, Harold Noakes, Dolores Campo, Ralph McKinnon, Aurora Weir, Harry Pudlowski, Noreen Stanton, Alex Racine, Ann Warcjik, Pat Wightman, Harold Roulston, Edgar Ziobro. Front row: Lillian Renaud, Anita LaBlanc, Alice Sauve, Ellen Lajarise, Barbara Waper. Absent: Lillian Johnson, Jean Wahlund and Frances Green.

On January 12, 1920, the Westlock School District #3208 and the Wabash School District #1815 joined to form the Westlock Consolidated School District #70.

Wabash School was located on the north side of the base line on the east side of the Wabash, near where the tee-off for the ninth hole of the golf course now is. At the time of consolidation, Wabash School District extended from the west side of the Westlock School District to the fifth meridian at the top of the Hazel Bluff hill, and two miles north and south of the base line. Apparently there were about thirty students in attendance at Wabash School in grades I-

VIII. Miss Louise Leake, Miss Achse Bell, Mrs. Kezia Wilson and Mr. Burr were among the early teachers.

On January 13, 1920. Mr. Hadgson was appointed official trustee of the new consolidated district by the Dept. of Education. Members of the first school board were Mr. F. A. (Farmer) Steele from Westlock, Mr. Alex MacGregor from Swallowhurst and Mr. Archie Brown from Wabash. Mr. J. W. Shutt was the Secretary-Treasurer.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Archie Brown served as trustee for over thirty years and that Alex MacGregor taught the first class in this area during the summer of 1903 in a tent in the Edison community.

Other trustees who served on the board after consolidation include such names as Mr. Maurice Gardam, Mr. Jim Hunter, Mr. Joe Renaud, Mr. Reg Little, Mr. Bill Anderson, and Mr. Hal Martin. Mr. Walter Armstrong was appointed Secretary-Treasurer in 1929 — a position which he filled very capably until about the time the consolidated school district was included in the Westlock School Division about 1949.

In 1919, the Board of Hazel Bluff School District arranged to send their high school students to Westlock School (at this time grade IX was included in high school).



Westlock High School — 1946. Mr. Russell Patrick — Principal. L to R: Bill Peter, Louise Leake, Jean Lajarise, Myrna Sands, Sydney Sands, Kathleen Peter, Don Armstrong, ?, Irene Marshall, Armand Renaud and Elsie Parton. Front row, L to R: Enid Nicholson, ?, Crystal Rayment, Vivian Feheley, Jane Quigley, Mary Tornaway, ?, Caroline Lyons, ?, Ed Pearce, Leslie Seward, Lyle Kinsella and Neil Campbell.

In September, 1920, after consolidation, the first school bus in the Westlock area began operating. At first, Mr. Vern Crispell operated the bus, followed by Mr. Jim Brown, who drove from 1920 to 1943. This bus was a converted truck of uncertain vintage with

curtains on the sides. The bus picked up students along the base line from the Hazel Bluff corner to Westlock. Although the roads were often almost impassable, especially in the winter and spring, the service was reasonably good, considering the conditions.

In 1920-1921 Mr. Tommy Hyde, the principal, taught the senior room with grades 7-10 and Miss L. Bowen had grades 1-6. In 1921 Mr. Hyde went to Dapp.

In the spring of 1921, a second school (The Cottage School) was erected on the school grounds just south of the original one. From 1920 to 1925 it served as a classroom for the upper grades. After the opening of the Brick School in 1925, this building served as a teacherage. It was used again as a classroom at various times when the school population could not be housed in the various school buildings. In 1948 it was moved to a lot on 104 Street on school property and placed on a foundation with two rooms added. It was again used as a teacher's residence until it was sold. The house still stands on the same lot.

In 1921-22, Mr. Fred Lynn, the principal, taught grades 8-11 in the cottage school. Mr. A. A. (Happy) Aldridge had grades 4-7 in the original school. Mr. Aldridge shared teaching responsibilities in high school with Mr. Lynn, offering chemistry, History and English. Grades 1-3 were in the tin school on main street taught by Miss Helen Jones, who later married Mr. Gordon Pierce. Miss Jones' school register from January to June lists the names of fifty-one students in January and sixty one at the end of June. This is the only school register that is preserved, prior to 1934.

In 1922-23, Mr. Lynn and Mr. Aldridge had the upper grades and Mrs. George Adkins (Miss Louise Leake) taught grades 1-3 in the tin school. Mr. Aldridge resigned in June and after several years of teaching, he joined the School Books Branch of the Dept. of Education.

In 1923-24 the tin school was divided into two rooms with Mrs. Rex Turner teaching grades 1-3 and Mr. Len Hergott had grades 4-6, in the front portion of the tin school. Mr. Lynn taught grades 10-12 and Mrs. Vera Malton (Farmer Steele's daughter) had grades 7-9. They shared teaching responsibilities in the two schools.

By 1924 the existing classrooms were so overcrowded the school board decided to erect a new school. The building, designed by Mr. Blakey, the architect, was constructed of red brick with rough cast in the gables. There were five classrooms with cloak-rooms on the ground floor and one room upstairs which was originally intended as a science room. The design was unique but very attractive in appearance — certainly one of the show places in this

community for many years and one of which both parents and students were justifiably proud.

The staff in the new school in 1925-26 were Mr. Fred Lynn, Principal, who taught grades 9-11, Mrs. Malton, Grades 7-8; Len Hergott grades 5-6; Miss Jean McIvor Grades 3-4; and Miss Hazel Cox grades 1-2.

Mr. Lynn resigned in 1926 and after several years of teaching, become a grain buyer for Searle Grain. He was followed by Mr. Dean Colpitts as principal, teaching grades 10-12 and Miss Grace Lewin took over Grades 1 and 2. The following year the staff remained the same except that Mr. Gordon French replaced Mrs. Malton.

In 1928 Mr. Hergott resigned and went to Vermilion to teach. Miss McIvor also left that year and went into nursing. Mr. French and Miss Lewin were married.

In 1928 Mr. Colpitts resigned. Mr. D. C. Folk became principal with Mrs. Oestrich as his assistant. Mr. George Bauer succeeded Mr. Folk in 1930 and served as principal until 1936.

By 1930 the school population had outgrown the brick school and grades one and two were back in the original school with Miss Dorothy Chard in charge. Other members of the staff included Mr. Bauer 11-12, Mrs. Oestrich grade 10; Miss Rita Sterling grades 8-9; Miss Kate Olson (later Mrs. Donald McLachlan) grades 6-7; Miss Mary Blue (later Mrs. Bauer) grades 4-5; Miss Wilma Hughes grades 1-2.

In 1930 the members of the school board were Mr. Archie Brown. Mr. Jim Hunter and Mr. Maurice Gardam.

Mr. Bauer was succeeded by Mr. Jack Tracy as principal with Mr. J. E. Buchanan as assistant in 1936. Mr. Tracy remained until 1938 when Mr. Frank (Skiv) Edwards (1938-41) replaced him.

Over the decade from 1930 to 1940 the school population had not grown rapidly. There were approximately 220 students enrolled in seven classrooms instead of the six in 1930.

In 1941-42 Mr. Bill Dean followed Mr. Edwards as principal. The following year in September, Mr. Russell Patrick, who later became a cabinet minister in the Social Credit Government, became principal, a position he held until 1946.

In 1943-44 the seven classrooms were badly overcrowded with a total enrollment of 269 students. There were fifty pupils in the Grade 10 and 11 classroom. This heavy enrollment created a serious problem. During that year there were four different teachers in that room: Miss Lillian Leveredge for October and November; Mrs. Pearl Kunelius for December and January; Captain R. T. Dick from February to May and Mr. H. T. Cork for June and July.



In 1944-45 a third high school room was opened with Mr. J. A. Brown in grade ten (26 student), Miss Jean L. Dixon in Grade 11 (20 students) and Mr. Patrick, Grade 12 (30 students).

In passing, it may be mentioned that in 1943-44 and 1944-45 Westlock school, as well as many other schools in Alberta, started the fall term in October and the spring term ended in July in order to provide additional help for harvesting during these years.

In 1946 Mr. W. S. Waddell succeeded Mr. Patrick but resigned in 1947 to be followed that September by Mr. Richard Staples. That year there were 312 students registered with nine teachers on staff. The other teachers were: Mrs. F. Seymour; Miss Margaret Majury Gr. 12; Mrs. Esther Loree, Grs. 3 & 4; Mrs. Alma Parton, Grs. 5 & 6; Mrs. Margaret Currey, Grs. 7 & 8; Miss Rita Sterling, Gr. 9; Mrs. Pearl Lindsay, Gr. 10; Mr. George Desson, Gr. 11. The six rooms in the brick school, the original one-room school, a portable classroom built in 1944 and the Anglican Parish Hall provided the needed classrooms. In the next two years, the school population increased slightly with a total of 344 in September, 1944. A new classroom as well as inside washrooms had been added to the brick school in the summer of 1949, providing a tenth classroom and much needed indoor facilities.

When the Westlock Consolidated School joined the Westlock School Division in 1949, one of the items of the agreement was that the divisional board would immediately construct a large school on the Westlock School grounds. After some delay, construction began on a two storey building in the spring of 1950.

In September, 1950 when school opened, enrollment had increased from 344 the previous year to 465. This included about 20 pupils from Prosperous who were bussed in that fall (the first centralization in Westlock). A rural school that had been moved into the school grounds that summer, provided the only additional room. Space was at a premium with over forty pupils per classroom in the elementary and junior high schools. Fortunately, the five classrooms upstairs, the washrooms in the basement of the new High School, and the boiler room, which was about 150 feet south of the new building, were complete for the January term. The pupils of three high school rooms and two junior high rooms moved into the new accommodations. Two additional teachers were engaged in January. However, at that time students from Clover Valley and Woodglan were bussed in to Westlock.

The complete teaching staff in September, 1950 included Mrs. Alma Parton, Gr. 1; Miss Rita Rivest, Gr. 1 & 2; Mrs. Mary MacGregor, Gr. 2 & 3; Mrs.

Jean McCreary, Gr. 3 & 4; Mrs. C. McMaster, Gr. 4 & 5; Mr. Mike D'Andrea, Gr. 6; Mrs. Margaret Currey, Grs. 7 & 8; Mr. Carl Poloway, Grs. 8 & 9; Mr. Arthur Doyle, Gr. 10; Mr. Gilbert Brimacombe, Gr. 11 and Mr. Staples, Gr. 12. In January, 1951, Mrs. Esther Loree (Gr. 5) who was on leave of absence, and Miss Norma Dunsmore (Gr. 1) were added to the staff.

In the spring of 1951 the new building was completed providing seven classrooms, one science and one home economics laboratory, a small staff room, four small offices and washroom facilities.

Over the next two decades the school population in Westlock increased by leaps and bounds, due in part to increasing centralization and to the increase in the population of the town.

To keep pace with the rapidly increasing enrollment and to provide a broader range of educational opportunities, the Board of the Westlock School Division embarked on an extensive and continuing building program in Westlock from 1954 to 1971. These new facilities are listed below.

1954. A two storey, eight classroom addition was added to the south end of the 1951 building.

1956. A new seven room elementary school was constructed east of the brick school. In the same year a gymnasium, complete with stage, bleachers and shower rooms was built on the south end of the 1954 addition.

1958. An eight room school was erected just south of the gymnasium. Initially it was used as an elementary — junior high school.

1960. A one storey junior high school wing was added to the north end of the first high school building. It provided seven classrooms, wash rooms and a fairly large office space which is still used as the senior high administration office.

1963. An elementary school, gymnasium, two industrial arts shops and two home economics laboratories were attached to the 1958 elementary building. Prior to this time, industrial arts had been taught in a rural school building that had been moved onto the grounds and later in a frame building constructed for this purpose near the boiler room.

1964. In May of 1963 the Department of Education authorized the demolition of the old brick school. A new elementary school with ten classrooms, a library, a staff room, offices and wash rooms was erected on the site. A one room addition to the shop and a band room on the west end of the 1956 gymnasium were added.

1965. The business education wing with seven classrooms, washrooms, an office and a staff room was attached to the east sides of the old gymnasium and of the 1954 addition.

1970. A fine, modern junior high school, on its own spacious grounds in Eastglen, was constructed. It contained thirteen classrooms, a library, a gymnasium with a stage and shower rooms, three science laboratories, three ancillary rooms, office space and staff rooms.

1971. A new high school gymnasium, a spacious library adjoined by a large ancillary room and two science laboratories was attached to the south and east sides of the 1960 junior high school wing. This building completely enclosed an open courtyard in the high school complex.

In the same year, two new shops were built on the west side of the 1963 shop wing.

The table below, showing the number of teachers and the student population at intervals from 1950 to 1982, clearly indicates the co-operation between the enrollment, the teaching staff and the expansion of facilities. As can be seen, the school population peaked in the early seventies and then began to gradually decline.

Year	TEACHERS					STUDENTS				
	E. S.	Jr. H.	Sr. H.	Total		E. S.	Jr. H.	Sr. H.	Total	
1950-51	6	2	3	11	283	81	101		465	
1955-56	14	7	9	30	447	231	178		856	
1960-61	22	11	21	54	492	280	272		1044	
1965-66	21	14	27	62	484	296	398		1178	
1970-71	24	16	31	71	628	358	577		1563	
1975-76	25	18	30	73	545	402	623		1570	
1980-81	23	18.5	30	71.5	464	325	607		1396	
1982-83	22	18	28	68	424	336	577		1337	

Furthermore, this rapid growth demanded additional administrative personnel in the school. In the early fifties, Mr. Carl Poloway, who had joined the staff in 1950 and Mr. Kenneth Nixon, hired in 1951, were appointed assistant principals in the junior high and the elementary schools respectively. Later, they were designated principals. At first the three school levels were closely related but in time they became distinctly separate units with separate buildings and separate administrative staff.

In the senior high school Mr. Staples was principal until his retirement in 1972. Mr. Walter Sharek, who joined the staff in 1952, was vice-principal from 1954 until his resignation in 1959. Mr. Lorne Clapperton held the position from 1960 to 1972 and then was principal until 1977. In 1972 Mr. Bernie Keller and Mr. Peter Seward were appointed as vice-principals, positions which they held until their resignations from the post in 1977. Mr. Stan Balanak was principal from 1977 to 1983, with Mrs. Hendrikje (Henny) Dobyanski and Mr. David Maxwell as assistants. Mr. Maxwell resigned from the position in 1983. At present, Mr. Art Aitken, former principal of the junior high school is principal and Mrs. Dobyanski is vice-principal.

In the Junior High School, Mr. Steve Chodan, who joined the staff in 1952, was appointed vice-principal in 1954 and served in that capacity until Mr. Poloway's retirement in 1979. He resigned the position that year but is still teaching. Mr. Art Aitken succeeded Mr. Poloway with Mr. Charles (Chuck) Keller as vice-principal. This year (1983) Mr. Edward Caraher, former principal of the Vimy school was appointed principal with Mr. Keller as his assistant (vice-principal).

In the Elementary School, when Mr. Nixon resigned to take a position with the Department of Education, Mr. Alan Doherty was appointed principal. He resigned in 1983 to be replaced by Mr. David Baker, who had been Director of Curriculum and Media for the Westlock School Division. In the elementary school three levels of administration developed — a principal, a vice-principal and an assistant principal. Mr. Maurice Cheveldayoff was vice-principal from 1964 to 1969, followed by Mr. Marvin Wiedrick (1967-71), Mr. George Oko (1971-75), Mr. Kenneth Wold (1975-76), Mr. David Lent (1976-78), and Mr. Douglas Fleming from 1978 to the present time. Among the assistant principals, whose duties were associated with the lower elementary grades were such teachers as Mrs. Alma Parton, Mrs. Fern Onyschuck, Mrs. Joyce Thain and Mrs. Lily-Ann Knight.

The school building boom in Westlock ended in 1971, the almost continuous construction from 1954 to 1971 had met the needs of the rapidly growing school population. But at that time there were clear indications that the enrollment would begin to decline, hence no further construction was undertaken over the next twelve years. However, at present, plans are well underway to demolish the old 1951 and 1954 buildings and replace them with a fine, modern, multi-purpose facility.

Over the almost seventy years since the first one-roomed school was opened in Westlock, hundreds of teachers and thousands of students have been associated with Westlock School. An attempt has been made to give a reasonably accurate account of the first thirty five years of the history of the school, including the names of teachers and the school facilities available at the time. However, after 1951, because of sheer numbers, only the names of the administration personnel have been recorded. We recognise that many outstanding individuals not mentioned here, have helped play important roles in the development and the success of the Westlock School. Hopefully their contributions and their dedication to the teaching profession will not soon be forgotten in Westlock and district.



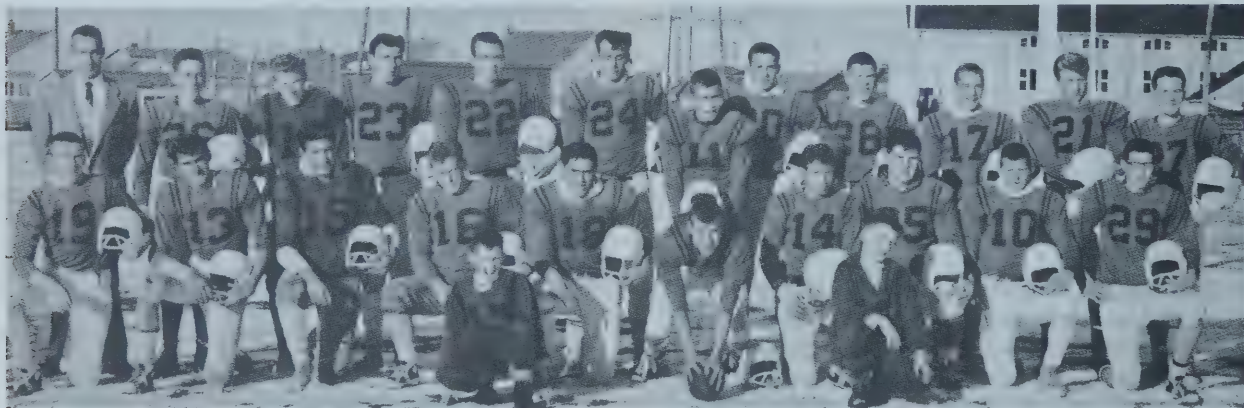
# Westlock High School Sports



WHS Sports — Boys' Basketball 1963-64. Provincial Consolation Champs (St. Paul). Back row: Standing (left to right) Nelson Scott (manager), Mr. Truckey, (coach), Maurice Pelletier, Len Sterling, Bob Boyd, Larry Cryderman, Wayne Flint-off (stats). Front row: Stan Johnson, Cliff Holowski, Wayne Boyd, John Deacon, Charlie Parsons, Gary Jarvis.



WHS Sports — Girls Basketball Team. Provincial Consolation Winners 1968-69 at Medicine Hat. Back row: (left to right) Mr. Truckey (coach) Linda Wilkins, Diane Kinsella, Brenda Round, Doris Paquette. Middle row: (standing left to right) Melanie Judge (manager), Judy Rode, Linda Smith, Wendy MacMillan, Jeanette Olson, Carol Boychuk (manager). Front row: (kneeling left to right) Marlene Hahn, Kathy Miller, Bonnie Boyd, JoAnn Lewko, Trudy Semeniuk, Bev Nyal.



Westlock Thunderbirds. Back row: Coach Mr. Truckey, Ian Sutherland, Lee Adkins, Ronald Durstling, Garnet Wahlund, Marvin Luchkiw, Phil Ponting, Gene Baxandall, Neil McMillan, Lynn Kendel, Tom Bennie, Joe Doherty. Front row: Leonard Sterling, Roger Draganiuk, Mike Fedyna, Larry Hide, John Bauer, Richard Engler, Alfred Shelton, Ron Fortin, Dennis Stolen, Bob Thompson. Water boys: Desmond Garth, Dennis Colwell.

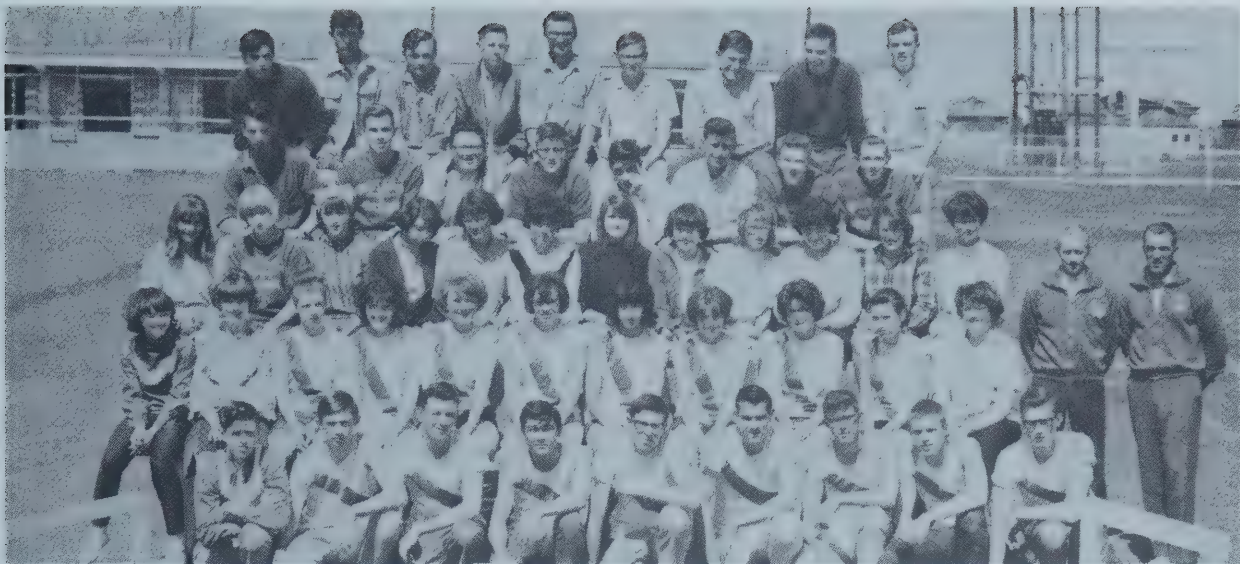


Girls' Soccer. Top row: Barb Malmas, Pat Sexty, Joann Balon, Barb Toth, Diane Kostyk, Charlene Hicks, Mr. Truckey, Coach. Bottom row: Wendy Hollings, Pam Wingrove, Kathy Huff, Barb Jones, Heather Cobban, Darlene Smith, Evelyn Ford, (missing) Sheila Oloske.



Boys' Volleyball. Top row: Mr. Popko, coach, Rick Mueller, Daryl Lynes, Ross Lyons, Sandy Hoy, Murray Brown. Bottom row: Kevin Noel, Doug Paquette, Barry Wilkins, Art Proctor, Dean Gurak, Harvey Cameron. (Missing) Steve Miller, Manager.





**Track & Field.** Kneeling: Dean McKeague, Dennis Campbell, Norman Bilodeau, Fred Pon, Lee Moldenhauer, Gordon Ivey, Ross Nelson, Gordon Lea, David Beamish. Second row: Adele Skowronski, Judy McLaughlin, Barbara Brown, Alexandra Mardell, Elise Bilodeau, Bernadette Desranleau, Olga Baran, Rita Zittlau, Pearl Seatter, Audrey Beamish, Diane McLaughlin. Third row: Mary Burkun, Jean Loree, Pat Newnham, Wendy McGlone, Karen Cook, Hazel Beveridge, Joan Hartum, Lynn Moldenhauer, Louise Michaud, Rosemary Stitsen, Florence Smith, Linda Kroll. Fourth row: Harold Hadley, Ross Lea, Jim Scott, Calvin Shaver, Deryl Dowbush, Ken Lynes, Jack Armitage, Erwin Schabert. Fifth row: Don Weir, Bill Baran, Jim Nutt, Les Ohrn, Allen Haynes, Richard Rogers, Don Fraser, Randy Pall, Len Seatter.



**Badminton Club — Westlock High School.**



**Wrestling Team.** Westlock High School. Lyle Thompson, Ron Knorr, Gerald Oloski, Dale Verbeek, Ron Jenson, Collin Ruxton, Mr. Popko.



**Senior Boys Tumbling.** L to R: Lloyd Logan, Harvey Sterling, Robert Brown, Richard Cormier, Dennis Legault. Kneeling: Bill Lefebvre, Herb Plain, Rod Merryweather, Victor Kostiw, Mr. Truckey, Reg Munroe.



**Cheerleaders:** Back row: Janice Baker, Pam Bigg, Donna Knudson. Front row: Joyce O'Donnell, Carol Moore, Elaine Skowronski, Burna Ward, Donna Leake.





Westlock High School Curling Champions. L to R: Marvin Thachuk, Brad Latawiec, Don Armstrong, Robert Smith.



Volley Ball Team. 1976-1977 Westlock High School. Top: Mr. Rakoz, Dorothy Lyons, Joann Balon, Charlene Hicks, Diane Warwaryck, Colleen Brown, Bonnie Smerychynski. Middle: Mrs. Rakoz, Petra Thomas, Joan Pearce, Donna Thompson, Betty-Anne Wilkins, Diane Kostyk. Bottom: Gwen Lyons, Val Smart, Viv Coles, Barb Ritter.



Board of Trade dinner at Westlock Hotel.





Track Team, Westlock High School, 1969-70. Front row: Ron Hammermeister, Doug Leriger, Kelly Armitage, Wes Smart, Byron Gray, Charlie Cobban, Murray de Alexandra, Brian Bonik, Dick Rogers. Second row: Donna Brown, Jo-Ann Simms, Dave Rouse, Brenda Round, Rita Roberge, Doreen Kinsella, Heather Thompson, Valerie Edgar, Verna Booth, Bev Biggeman, Judy Rode, Maureen Humphries, Jo-Ann Lewko, Trudi Seminiuk, Colleen Forbes, Maureen McConaghy. Third row: Anita Allerle, Carol Fillion, Louise Rosendale, Loretta Mitchell, Janice Renaud, Bonnie Boyd, Ken Lyons, Kathie Miller, Barb Baggett, Gail Hilliard, Linda Coles, Heather Jarvis. Fourth row: Ted Truckey, Corvin Urbach, Tom Manning, Ron Stimson, Ross Smith. Fifth row: Lawrence St. Louis, Dave Armstrong, Willie Yaremko, Jim Campbell, Tom Renaud, Gary Schreiner, Lorne Beamish, Dave Jones, Richard Seatter, Tracy McKeague.



Westlock Basketball team.



Boys' Soccer. Top row: Tom Adkins, Rick Mueller, Jack Adkins, Gordon Glebe, Max Kinsella. Bottom row: David Frisell, Dan Roberts, Art Proctor, Dwayne Teske, Fred Schneider. (Missing) Brian Chodan, Dean Hengel, Barry Schuller, Robert Hajek, Merle Proctor, Mr. Truckey, Coach.





Girl's Volleyball. Top row: Shirley Glebe, Cheryl Madson, Joanne Balon, Janet Smith, Vivian Coles, Barb Ritter, Coach, Mr. Rakoz. Bottom row: Petra Thomas, Val Smart, Ruth Scott, Suzanne St. Louis, Charlene Hicks, Donna Thompson.



Girls' Tumbling. Back row: Mr. Truckey, Olga Berwald, Linda Baxandall, Sharon Platt, Karren Smith, Gertraude Hirt, Betty Sterling, Beverly Conkin, Carol Sterling, Lynn Langille, Helen Kostiw. Front row: Betty Waltermath, Louise Schaab, Yvonne Lefebvre.

### Wood Glen School #2068 1908-1950

Wood Glen School was located 4 miles south and  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles west from Westlock. The first school started in 1908 was in an abandoned sawmill of McGinnis and Lyons. This was a log building with a sod roof. The teacher was Fred O'Brien and some of the first students were Arnold and Frank Greenfield, Ernie Campo, Jim Sandison, the Cloutier family and the Finnegan family.

This log building served as the school until 1914 when a new school was built on almost the same site

— costing \$750. This was a larger building with the traditional stove at the back of the room and a stove pipe running the length of the room to a stub brick chimney in the front. In this building many of the local young people learned the 3 R's — the Gowers, Grays, Vadhiems, Campos, Hogarths, Zibros, Browns, Breaults, Cormiers, and Waltemaths. In later years some of the 2nd generation and offspring of the original students attended school — Frank and Grant Greenfield, Yvonne and Delores Campo, Rudy Cloutier, Lorraine and Phyllis Martin.

The school served as a community centre being used for meetings, Christmas concerts which were very popular (also used as an indication of how good the teacher was). The June school picnics were very popular, with ball games, races, ice cream which might be homemade or bought from an Edmonton dairy. The ice cream was packed in dry ice in an insulated heavy canvas container and if unopened would last for 3 days. This was ordered in advance and shipped by train. The school also served as a polling station for local school board elections, local, municipal, and federal elections.



Woodglen School #2068. 1907-1913. First School.

By 1945, teachers were not that available, especially for rural schools. Then the government proposed to consolidate rural schools or close them down, having children go to larger schools. This was resisted by many rural people as it also meant losing the local social centre. However, one by one, the rural schools did close and a better quality education did become available in the larger schools. This did create some problems for rural children — transportation was difficult, no more bib overalls, and much adjustment was needed to adapt to the new ways in town, many students finding it very difficult to keep marks up to standard because of a limited background, often in mathematics. Fortunately, there were many understanding teachers, such as Rita Sterling, who always gave help and understanding.

The Wood Glen School closed on June 30, 1947

TOWNSHIP 59 RANGE 27 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN		E CLOUTIER 08 J JARVIS K ARNDT		F HUBERT 09 T TANCOWNY D MILLER	F SCANTH 06 H A M SMITH 10 H GEDDISHIM J VANZAAL C KRINCH 07	B ALTON 05 GEO BROOKS MD 92 E HARWARDT	CPR 10 R BOUTIN F O'BRIEN	A H MCCABE C ELLERBECK J DOBSON G BOUTIN	E VADHEIM W BIDNE H HARPER MRS E VADHEIM W BIDNE	L D DOUGLAS ME TAYLOR M GREENFIELD M GREENFIELD M GREENFIELD	WESTERN CANADA LAND COMPANY 10 M MCINNES	TOWNSHIP 59 RANGE 26 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN
		A CLOUTIER 09 L MCGLOWE W KALLAL	F MOUTIER R HOGARTH D MILLER				CPR 10 F GREENFIELD A GREENFIELD F GREENFIELD	CPR 10 F GREENFIELD A GREENFIELD F GREENFIELD	H GREENFIELD J DOUGLAS 03 A GREENFIELD F GREENFIELD	J DOUGLAS 03 N MCINNES M MCINNES		
		J CLOUTIER 09 K ARNDT K ARNDT	J CLOUTIER 09 A ARNDT T ARNDT	O BIBEAU 07 G TURNER D MCINTYRE	G TURNER D MCINTYRE	H MCCIMMON E CUREBOMPAU GRO BROOKS C WALFEMATH E HARWARDT	A GAVIER 08 MRS E VADHEIM W BIDNE	E VADHEIM W BIDNE	WESTERN CANADA LAND COMPANY 10 BILL GRAY J CAMPO JAMES GRAY R BREAUULT	J CAMPO R BREAUULT	D GRIERSON 04 R J CAMPO R BREAUULT	
		J BIBBY D STANLEY A BROCHO	W E GREEN 08	F MCNABB 07 F GARCOW 10 GEORGE FORTIN E & E FORTIN	G CAVENAUGH 08 J ZIOBRO Z CLARK	W HAZELMUT W LETTE	S JOHNSTON 08 GRANT MUMERT EDNA CORMIER N NADEAU A CORMIER	DECHTILETS 08	WESTERN CANADA LAND COMPANY 10 C CAMPO 17 E CAMPO MCGLOWE AGENCIES	H HARRIGAN 03 J G COOK 10 H HAUGER FRED HOLT G KLASSEN		
		W MCLAREN 07 A CLOUTIER R CLOUTIER	A CLOUTIER R CLOUTIER	H CURLETT K ARNDT	R ARLAND 06 R CLELAND 10	A AELAND 05 P CLOUTIER A WATT	CPR 10 W J MURFITT P CLOUTIER G WATT	CPR 10 MRS J BROWN R R BROWN R BREAUULT	T WHITLOCK 08 WENDLAND WENTWORTH E BREADNER J LAWRENCE	JOHN CAMPO 04 G SCHWANKE F ISEKE	CPR 10 A NRPFAVER D HORTON	
TOWNSHIP 59 RANGE 26 WEST OF THE FOURTH MERIDIAN		OMAR VICTOR RAY HOULE	J GURILLY RIMER GURILLY	L BREAUULT D ROWAT 06 D ROWAT 10 G WATT	D ROWAT 06 D ROWAT 10 G WATT	W HAWKINS 03 G CLOUTIER	CPR 10 C CLOUTIER MCGLOWE AGENCIES	E KOPP JOHN RESTON	E KOPP JOHN RESTON	W SHAW 07 C SCHWANKE H KOPP	CPR 10 R HANLON	
			S RITTERS 07 A BREAUULT C SPARR	P CHOBB 08 L BREAUULT A SCHMIDT W GLER	L BREAUULT 08 T RIOPREL L PHILLIPS 10 H ANHORN	G VIKERS 0 J SOLTFESZ B SHUSTER	H PHILLIPS 03 H ANHORN	J MCLAREN 07 J POPKE R GIRARD	WESTERN CANADA LAND COMPANY 10 J HAENSHKE S GLEBE	K SCHWANKE M KOPP	J GOWER K MASSA	

WOODGLEN S.D. N<sup>o</sup> 2068

### Woodglen School District #2068.

and stood vacant until 1951 when it and the barn were put up for bids. The school was sold to Henry Mehden who operated a store at Rossington. He used it as a warehouse, then sold it to Frank Hasse who used it for a barn, it still stands at this time.

The teachers who taught in rural schools deserve much credit for teaching, very often under adverse conditions, teaching as many subjects as possible to often forty students in Grades 1-8. Often the salary was meagre — \$350 or no wages at all during the depression.

We students who attended Wood Glen School have many mixed feelings about our time spent there — when the school closed, for us it was the end of an era.

### Wood Glen Teachers

1920 Miss Hyde (later Mrs. Parton)  
1921 Mr. MacDonald  
1922 Mr. Waldezy  
1923 —  
1924 Mr. Moreau



Woodglen School #2068 1913-1947.

1925 Miss Evelyn Duteau (later Mrs. Ernie Campo)  
1926 Mr. Borcier  
1927 Mr. Oliver  
1928 Miss Leahy  
1929 Mr. McKenzie  
1930 —





Woodglen School 1913. 1. Sam Johnstone (homesteader of land). 2. Roy Madden. 3. Arnold Greenfield. 4. Garvin Madden. 5. Erban Finnigan. 6. Frank Greenfield. 7. Jack Pickard. 8. Alvin Wildblood.

1931 —  
 1932 Miss Flynn  
 1933 Miss Trottier  
 1933 Miss Muriel Patterson (later Mrs. N. Shaver)  
 part of year  
 1934 Mrs. Evelyn Campo  
 1935 Miss Roy  
 1936 Miss Elenor Thompson (part year)  
 1937 Mrs. Vic Nelson  
 1938 Miss Cecile Eckenfelder  
 1939 —  
 1940 Mrs. Evelyn Campo  
 1941 Mr. Mark Bernard  
 1942 Mr. Mark Bernard  
 1943 Mrs. Helen Harry (nee Watson)  
 1944 Mrs. Hall and Mr. John Berezon

# Financial Institutions

## The Bank of Montreal

The Merchants Bank was taken over by the Bank of Montreal in 1921 and 1922. The Westlock branch was taken over in 1922. Mr. George Travers was the manager of the Merchants Bank at that time and was kept on by the Bank of Montreal.

The bank was started in temporary premises adjoining a meat market and a restaurant. Westlock at that time had a population of about 125. The small community consisted of a single elevator, a store, railway station, hotel and a few houses, in addition to the meat market and restaurant.



Bank of Montreal, Westlock, Alberta.

After a fire in the meat market-restaurant building the bank moved into their new building, which was on the corner of what was then known as Main and Second Street. The new building served until 1937 when its career ended as it had started, with a fire. The present well known building was built soon afterwards and has been occupied by the Bank of Montreal to the present time.

By 1950 demand for banking services had increased to the point where the bank needed larger and better equipped quarters, so the following year an extensive modernization project was completed,



Old Bank of Montreal which was destroyed by fire in 1937.

doubling the size of the bank office and improving facilities.

At the present time there are seventeen persons on staff.

The following is a list of the managers who have served in the bank since it was established:

George Travers	1918-1924
L. J. Larue	1924-1927
William L. Hurst	1927-1932
A. E. Munson	1932-1936
John H. Buchanan	1936-1942
Robert G. Fullerton	1942-1946
Alexander E. Allan	1946-
Roy S. Boddy	1946-1950
Frank Roberts	1950-1964
E. J. Buchanan	1964-1968
J. E. M. Jones	1968-1971
R. W. McLennan	1971-1976
M. B. (Merle) Simpson	1976-Present

The Bank of Montreal was the only bank in Westlock until the Bank of Nova Scotia came here in 1953.

## Bank of Nova Scotia

The Westlock Branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia was opened for business on Monday, July 13th, 1953, with Mr. K. L. Merritt as the first manager. At that



time, there were 27 other branches of the Scotia Bank in Alberta, whereas now, as of January 1982, there are 119. Westlock Branch opened with a staff of 3, today there are 21, twenty of whom are women.

The office was located in the South-west corner of the Westlock Hotel building on Main Street. Jacob Brost was the contractor who made the renovations in the Hotel to provide space for the banking office.

Open house was held on the preceeding Saturday, July 11th. Town Officials attending the opening were: Mr. Millar Watt, Mayor; Mr. Charles Roulston, Town Clerk; and Mr. Hal Martin, a Past President of the inactive Board of Trade (later to be known as the Chamber of Commerce). The Mayor performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony, and coffee and lunch was served by the United Farm Women's Group. The managers from Edmonton, Thorhild, Legal, Barrhead and South Side Edmonton, also attended the opening.

At the time of our opening, the only bank in Westlock was the Bank of Montreal, which had been in operation there for many years. Mr. Frank Roberts was the manager then and our competition prevailed on an entirely friendly basis.

At that time the Bank of Montreal operated a sub-branch at Fawcett on certain days of the week, and I believe also there was a sub-branch at Clyde. We enjoyed genuine friendliness and goodwill from everyone in the Town and the entire banking area from the day Scotia Bank opened for business.

In January, 1971, our business premises were moved to the present location on the opposite side of the corner. Managers of the branch since Mr. Merritt were as follows:

Mr. T. H. Bennie	July 20, 1959.
Mr. M. V. Podl	October 31, 1963
Mr. P. Toporowski	November 5, 1970
Mr. R. G. Watson	November 5, 1981.

## **The Westlock Branch of the Barrhead Savings and Credit Union**

The Board of Directors of the Barrhead Savings and Credit Union Ltd., after careful deliberation, decided that it was feasible to open a branch in the town of Westlock, due to a number of area residents from that area who were dealing at the Barrhead Branch. The Westlock Branch was opened to the general membership in the Westlock area on April 5th, 1977, under the direction of Larry Bohn, Branch Manager. The first office in the Town was located at the north end of Main Street, in what was formerly known as Tony's White Rose Service Station.

The Branch was well accepted by the membership and after a two year period the Credit Union transferred to its office facilities in the Town Mall

which is owned and operated by the Westlock Management Group. In changing the Credit Union premises the Branch increased membership and assets and was now able to offer facilities such as Night Depository, and Safety Deposit Boxes which has become a valuable service to our members.

In August of 1980 a management change took place as Larry Bohn transferred to another Credit Union in the Province of Alberta and Lynne Kuropatwa assumed the duties of Branch Manager. The total assets of the Branch are nearing five million dollars and membership is approximately 1400. The Branch offers a full range of services, a few of which are: personal chequing, daily interest savings accounts, Term Deposits, loans for both consumer-mortgages and farm loans, Travellers' cheques, money orders and convenient office hours for the members.

## **The Royal Bank of Canada** written by Alvin Ropchan

The Royal Bank first opened its doors in Westlock on August 16, 1976. Westlock was chosen for its central location and access to a wide customer area. We operated out of a trailer on our present property, with a staff of six until the current building was opened January 10, 1977. Now we have seven full time and one part-time staff members. Pictured below is D. W. (Don) Ward, Manager of the branch since it opened. The branch has grown and prospered in Westlock and we look forward to continuing to serve the community.



Don Ward, manager of Royal Bank — Westlock.

## **The Toronto-Dominion Bank**

The Toronto Dominion Bank opened its doors on July 27, 1970 in the Westlock Shopping Centre, becoming the third Chartered Bank in the Town of Westlock, Alberta.

The branch has grown considerably over the years and the staff has increased from four employees to fourteen employees in order to better serve

the needs of the citizens of Westlock, Alberta and its surrounding area.

In conjunction with the increased customer volume the branch underwent extensive renovations which were completed in January 1979 and increased the size of the branch by approximately 55%.

The Toronto Dominion Bank offers a complete range of banking services, and continues to be the bank where **People Make The Difference**. The managers who have served the public since the bank opened are: Mr. Mitch Trost, Mr. Ralph Chase, Mr. Garland Griffith, Mr. Gary McGregor, Mr. William Curtis, Mr. Donald Cole, Mr. Eric Nielson.

## Province of Alberta Treasury Branches History

In the late 1930's many communities found they were without banking facilities. The reason for this was that the chartered Banks, feeling the effects of the Great Depression, had closed large numbers of branches.

The Provincial Government of the day, recognizing the plight of the people for access to financial services, especially in rural communities, took ac-

tion and by means of an Order-in-Council, dated August 29, 1938, established the Province of Alberta Treasury Branches System. One month later the first Treasury Branch was opened at Rocky Mountain House.

The Order-in-Council was but a temporary authority and on November 22, 1938, the "Treasury Branches Act" came into force and with supplementary Acts in 1955, 1970 and 1980, together with amendments, is the authority under which the Province of Alberta Treasury Branches operates.

Treasury Branches initially offered only deposit and safekeeping services. Today, through their network of over 200 Branches and Agencies, Treasury Branches provide a full range of financial services to over 200 communities including Westlock.

Westlock Treasury Branch, the 98th in the system of Branches, was opened on March 10, 1978 at its present location under the management of Mr. J. L. (John) Ireland. Today, with a staff of thirteen, the Branch is under the management of Mr. L. E. (Larry) Fuson. Other Branch Managers during the intervening period were Mr. R. J. (Reg) Killam and Mr. R. G. (Rick) Thomas.





## Home

Just a little north; to tamarack and lakes.  
Two hundred and fifty miles, or so.  
Land of the Midnight Twilight;  
Begins on St. Albert hill.  
Memories; like ground fire smoke;  
Drift, grey cowl; over present days sight.  
Acrid sting of tears; from long yesterdays.  
Two hundred fifty miles away.  
Morinville; founded by an Abbé, from  
Quebec;  
Jean-Baptiste spire, beckons the high Alberta sky.  
French names chisel the Cenotaphs granite  
face;  
Poplars gather deep green, in the gentle shade.  
Legal corner; turn left to Busby;  
Ten miles of pot hole west ward.

## Dogs

by Norman Garrison

We have dogs in the alley and dogs in the street,  
Our flowers are pock-marked by the prints of their  
feet.  
My evening's disturbed by their yips and their  
prattles;  
My slumber is wrecked by the noise of their  
battles.  
There are small ones and large ones and hunters  
and prowlers;  
The big ones are barkers, the small ones are  
howlers.  
One poor, weak old lady declared for resistance;  
She called on the Council for help and assistance.  
The Council in session, when finally told it

Independence; when my father settled there.  
Sleepy, shabby hamlet; farms, and dusty roads.

The silent Advance graveyard, closed.  
A sister lies there; unmarked.  
The Cairn, carved with names of pioneers;  
My father's should be one of them.

Old Independence School; last a granary.  
Children's voices echo; from 1905.

Ground mist haunts a tree lined road,  
At night, beside my June days farm home.

Memories; like bare twigs from winter trees;  
Blue Eyed Grass, and Yarrow; summer dog days.  
Thoughts of home, yesterday's Northern  
Lights.  
November's sun sets at four thirty; have I time, to  
reach home?

Said, "Surely we'll help if she'll just catch and  
hold it."

If these things continue, I'll surely turn hellion  
And break out in rashes of open rebellion.

I'll smear off the filth from my garden and grasses  
On the Town Council steps and their bright  
window glasses.

Their by-laws turns dog into plain people-haters  
And changes good neighbours to mean old dog-  
haters.

But if nothing is done, here's a promise, A.V.  
Ye have no' heard the last o' the doggies and me!

This was written some years ago in Quesnel,  
B.C. when there was a battle between the gardeners  
and the dog owners. It is quite applicable to the local  
situation!

## Health Services

### History of the Thorhild Westlock Auxiliary Hospital and Nursing Home District #26

On January 12, 1962, the Alberta Government appointed the first Board of Directors of the Barrhead — Thorhild — Westlock Auxiliary Hospital District #26. Mr. K. MacKenzie represented the County of Barrhead, Mr. Ott the Town of Barrhead, Mr. John Harry the M.D. of Westlock, Mr. H. J. Doherty the Town of Westlock and Mr. S. Shwetz the County of Thorhild.

Two years later, in March 1964 District #26 officially began operating its first facility — the Barrhead-Thorhild-Westlock Auxiliary Hospital with a 50 bed capacity. The Board of Directors at that time were Mr. J. Harry, Mr. J. J. Part, Mr. H. J. Doherty, Mr. K. MacKenzie and Mr. S. Shwetz. Mr. J. E. Phillips was Administrator and Mrs. Shirley Morie was the Director of Nursing.

A need was soon evident within the community for the services of a nursing home. July 29, 1970 saw the opening of the Westlock Nursing Home with a 52 bed capacity. The Board of Directors at that time were Mr. S. Shwetz, Mr. D. Hobart, Mr. J. Harry, Dr. A. Harder and Mr. K. MacKenzie. Mr. J. E. Phillips and Mrs. S. Morie remained as the Administrative staff.

In 1975 a division of the district took place, with the district now becoming the Thorhild Westlock Auxiliary Hospital and Nursing Home District #26.

There had already been a need exhibited for an expanded physiotherapy and occupational therapy department, to enrich the quality of care for our patients and meet the demands for an active outpatient service. In September 1982 construction was started, with the official opening to take place October 26, 1983. The Board of Directors at this time is Mr. L. Chatters, Mrs. G. Bigg, Mr. S. Shwetz, Mr. T. Bencharski and Mr. S. Glebe. Mrs. Shirley Morie is the present Administrator and Mrs. M. Nelson the Director of Nursing.

During the 21 years since the formation of the

first Barrhead-Thorhild-Westlock Auxiliary Hospital District #26 there have been many improvements within the health care field, and we can be proud as a district of the facilities we have provided.

### Kickham Clinic

**Founder: — Doctor Lawrence (Larry) Kickham**

Doctor Lawrence (Larry) Kickham was born in Prince Edward Island. After school graduation, he taught school in Saskatchewan. He enrolled in the Medical Faculty at the University of Alberta in the 1920's. He started practice in Westlock in the early thirties and left in the early forties when he joined the Canadian Army. He mostly served in a surgical capacity in the European Theatre of War.

Returning home in 1945 he resumed practice and within a short while, with the aid of patients, built the Kickham Clinic. This was located on Main Street opposite Renaud's Hardware.



Dr. Kickham in the late 1920's.



Over the next few years a number of doctors joined the Clinic. Those remaining for a significant time being: —

Doctor T. Garrison, a Gold Medalist at the University of Alberta, and raised in this area. He left to start a practice in Fairview, Alberta.

Doctor Robin Thorpe, a British graduate and Naval Surgeon during the War. Doctor Thorpe had originally opted to farm in the Sunniebend area, but crop problems had prompted his return to medicine. He left to join Imperial Oil in Norman Wells.

Doctor John Deacon from Durham University in England, joined the Clinic in 1952. He had served in The British Merchant Navy during the War.

Dr. Kickham accidentally drowned while on holiday in British Columbia in July, 1954.

Dr. Deacon continued the practice until 1956, when Doctor Andrew (Andy) Cobban took over the practice. Doctor Cobban, an Aberdeen graduate (1944) had been in the British Army with the Paratroop Regiment for five years before coming to Canada. Doctor Deacon joined Doctor Cobban in later 1956 and 1958 heralded the arrival of Doctor Robert (Bob) Little, an Aberdeen graduate with extensive surgical training.

In 1962 the three partners moved to a new Clinic Building east of the Post Office,, retired the name “Kickham Clinic” and called the new Practice “The Associate Medical Clinic”. This Clinic is active at the time of writing.

In 1962 Doctor C. Mowat briefly joined the Clinic. He moved to Saskatchewan the following year.

In 1964 Doctor Alan Watt, an Aberdeen graduate, arrived. Doctor Watt had experiences as a Medical Officer in Borneo and a special interest in Obstetrics.

In 1970 Doctor Mike Parrish, a British graduate with a special interest in Pediatrics, joined the Clinic, leaving in 1976 to practice in Edmonton.

In 1971 Doctor Stuart Jamieson, an Aberdeen graduate, and a Specialist in Internal Medicine arrived in the summer, giving the Clinic a further dimension and to the swimming pool, six aquatic Jamieson boys.

1974 was departure date for Doctor Andy Cobban, who went to help the people of Slave Lake.

Doctor Deacon retired in 1980.

Doctor Nini Zawtun joined the Clinic for six months in this year. She is an Alberta graduate.

Doctor T. Sheehan joined the Clinic in the fall of 1981, leaving in the spring of 1982. He was a British graduate.

Doctor C. Masur, a Calgary University graduate, joined the Clinic in January, 1983.

In closing this brief history it should be noted that Doctor Little who is currently with the Clinic has just concluded his 25th year of continuous service to this community.

19th September, 1983

John K. Deacon

(Chronicler)

## Medical Men of Westlock

### M.D's.

Dr. Phillips  
Dr. Geddes  
Dr. Henderson  
Dr. Miller, L.A.  
Dr. Scott  
Dr. Honey  
Dr. Collins  
Dr. Morrow  
Dr. Baldwin  
Dr. Crawford  
Dr. Buckley  
Dr. Kickham  
Dr. Mason  
Dr. Miller, C.A.  
Dr. Dobson  
Dr. Millions  
Dr. Nixon  
Dr. Hitchin  
Dr. McDonald (High Ridge)  
Dr. Hutchinson  
Dr. Young  
Dr. Ho  
Dr. Jamieson  
Dr. Patel  
Dr. Gomes  
Dr. Hodgins

Dr. Bradley  
Dr. Cato  
Dr. Whissell  
Dr. Kier  
Dr. Woodman  
Dr. Ibberson  
Dr. Garrison  
Dr. Girouse  
Dr. Gilchrist  
Dr. Thorpe  
Dr. Deacon  
Dr. Haworth  
Dr. Bradford  
Dr. Watson  
Dr. Cobban  
Dr. Downie  
Dr. Pritchard  
Dr. Little  
Dr. Nickel  
Dr. Vaughan  
Dr. Mowat  
Dr. Karpluk  
Dr. Watt  
Dr. Gokiart  
Dr. Sheehan  
Dr. Masur

### Vet. Surg.

Dr. Marsden  
Dr. Paminter  
Dr. Grey  
Dr. Henry  
Dr. Whenham  
Dr. Dumouchel  
Dr. Bichel  
Dr. Lawrence  
Dr. Lewis  
Dr. R. R. Bibby  
Dr. R. Bell

### D. D. S.

Dr. Haycock  
Dr. Sands  
Dr. Hawkins  
Dr. Robertson  
Dr. McClellan  
Dr. Theodore  
Dr. Metinko, N.  
Dr. Metinko, T.  
Dr. Ellis

## Midwives

### by Jenny Sterling

There is one group of women whose services in the pioneer days were heroic, unselfish and unsung. These were the midwives, who, with a moments notice, dropped whatever they might be doing and responded to the urgent call for help any hour of the day or night.

There was no doctor any nearer than Edmonton, with impassable roads in between, so the expectant mothers were utterly dependent on the help these women could give. They would gather their things together and travel miles, sometimes in wagons or on

horseback or even on foot to some homestead shack far from anywhere.

Most times there was no other help than the father, with difficult meals to prepare and perhaps four or five more youngsters underfoot.

Later on there was a doctor at Morinville, some twenty miles away. It was not until 1917 that a medical man was available in the district. He was Dr. Phillips, who spent the remainder of his life caring for the needs of the people of Westlock and community. Surely there is a special reward in the great beyond for these concerned, courageous women.

I will mention a few names, but am sure there are many more, fondly remembered and greatly appreciated. They gave of themselves with perhaps nothing more than a "Thank you".

Among them are; Mrs. P. McEachern, Mrs. Beaton, Mrs. Lelah Garrison, Mrs. Alice Adkins, Mrs. Elizabeth McDougall, Mrs. Hattie Hide, Mrs. Sampson of Clyde, Miss Margaret Currie.

## **Nursing Home in Westlock**

**by Irma Lyons**

When the Dinwoodies left Scotland, they first went to North Dakota, then to Edmonton, then to Pagan, near Vilna, and in 1919 arrived in Westlock. Mrs. Dinwoodie, encouraged by Dr. Henderson, soon decided to start a nursing home to accommodate patients not serious enough to be sent to an Edmonton hospital. This was the beginning of the Hazeldean Nursing Home, east of Westlock, where the Pat Barrett home was later located.



Frances Dinwoodie, Mrs. Dinwoodie, Mrs. Beatrice Breadner with baby Irma, October, 1923.



Five generations of the Dinwoodie family. Mrs. B. Dinwoodie began the Hazeldean Nursing Home in Westlock in 1921. This picture was taken in 1961.

The Clesson Nursing Home served this community at about the same time.

In 1924, the Hazeldean Nursing Home was claimed by fire, but it re-opened again in a large home two houses east of Fred Patterson's. This home operated until 1929, when the Dinwoodies moved to Edmonton.

By this time plans were made and preparations started for the building of the Immaculata Hospital in Westlock. In the meantime, some nursing Sisters had a nursing home in a large house just east of the present hospital, near where the Provincial Building now stands.

## **Pembina Lodge Pioneer's Home Away From Home**

**by Emily (Drysdale) Charlton**

At the turn of the twentieth century there was a willing response to the settling of Canada's western frontier in this area.



Pembina Lodge in 1965.



This proved to be a land of promise requiring tenacity, endurance and a drive to achieve. Squatters rights gave way to homesteads, the rivers and trails to roads and rails, set up tent to a log cabin and eventually to the more modern home-and finally schools for children and places to worship. They were assured the land would provide not only for themselves but for the coming generations. The needs and aspirations soon became realities. From the spaded garden plot to an open field. These moderate efforts steadily progressed to industrial development.



Pembina Lodge. Staff members, 1975.



Matron, Emily Charlton, 1960-1981.

The spirit of the pioneer held fast to the wheel, it was better to wear out than to rust out. There is no form for a busy man in growing old only a history of timeless moments.

Age leaves an open line for tasks of youth and vigor. The lingering years of the pioneer could be encountered by loneliness, ill health and the inability to be cared for. At the growing number of elderly in the province, concern was expressed. A task force was set up to review and study the requirements throughout the province in 1956. From the study of this survey the government adopted a plan to build adequate homes for custodian care in the areas which made requisition and would enter into contract for their maintenance and it's operation. By 1960, 31 homes were completed, which would house 50 residents each. This was the start of the Senior Citizens Program in the province of Alberta.

Pembina Lodge, opened it's doors in mid July 1960. Mr. John Makutra was the first resident to be admitted, followed by others such as Mrs. Emily Stanton of Jarvie, Ludwig Elssesor from Clyde, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Brown of Thorhild and Emil Arndt.

The official opening of these first 31 homes took place at Pembina Lodge, Westlock November 1960,



Opening of the 1976 addition of the Westlock Pembina Lodge. Board Chairman — R. McLaughlin; M.L.A. Frank Appleby and Board Member — Mike Holyk.

the home riding of its Minister Of Welfare of the Alberta legislature, The Honorable Robin D. Jorgenson. It was carried by radio broadcast throughout the province, no television was available at that time.

In the past twenty odd years much expansion has given rise to the Alberta's senior citizens program.

A Foundation board is appointed by council representatives, which oversee the operation and maintenance of the home. Needless to say the Alberta

government has been most generous in providing needed accommodation. In 1970 a fourplex was built on the grounds at Pembina Lodge, this was the first set of self contained units built in Westlock. Each unit being shared by one couple. In 1972 an additional 10 rooms was added and in 1976 with an additional sixteen rooms, a large lounge area and considerable renovation to the previous structure took place. With this added accommodation it now provided for a possible 83 persons.

The first board members of The Westlock Foundation were, Mr. Harvey Doherty, Chairman, Mr. A. C. Muller Secretary Treasurer, John Harry, George Carew, Robert McMillan, Stanley Kasawski and David Turner. Since 1960 the following chairman have served on the board: David Turner, Sam Wishloff, Robert McLaughlin, Wm. Primeau and Glen Jones. Mrs. Persley was matron administrator for the first five months followed by Mrs. Emily (Drysdale) Charlton and followed by Mrs. Mary Borduzak in 1981.

In 1962 a committee was formed to support and encourage activities for the residents. It consisted of appointed members from interested groups, clubs, and organizations, resident-board-staff and matron representation. This committee helped to arrange and supply for the comforts and welfare of the folk residing at the lodge. Many projects and activities were planned such as tours and entertainment, picnics, visits to other lodges and numerous outings. Material was purchased for the well constructed fence, built and painted by two service clubs, the Westlock Lions and Rotary. Strolling walks were provided throughout the grounds as well as a built up garden area. Residents and visitors enjoy the spacious grounds which were landscaped with many trees flowers and shrubs. Park benches are placed in places to rest and enjoy. Many items within the home have been added such as the piano, organ and sound system, fish aquariums and many others.

This participation of pleasure sharing and working together lend to the satisfaction of a **Home Away From Home**.

### **Dr. G. Whissell Serving the Community for 45 Years**

In 1938, Dr. George Whissell, his wife (the former Nellie Laurin, a schoolteacher) and their two children, Marlene and George Jr. came to Edmonton on the invitation of his dear friend, Dr. P. Mousseau. It was not his intent to practise in a small town but destiny had other plans.

Dr. Whissell graduated from the University of



Dr. Whissell, 1978.

Montreal in 1932. After graduation, he took post-graduate courses in Montreal and New York for three years. After graduation, he accepted a position with the Consolidated Paper company, as the company doctor on Anticosti Island. He practised there until 1938 when his invitation came from his friend.

Edmonton was a booming city in those years because of the mining activities in Yellowknife and other northern regions. Housing in Edmonton was very scarce. Dr. Whissell rented a comfortable home in Legal and opened an office in the Tegler Building, in Edmonton. He was also on staff of the Edmonton General Hospital.

Word went around the community that there was a new doctor in Legal town. Dr. Whissell found himself seeing patients in the evening, on Saturdays and Sunday after mass.

Shortly after his arrival in Legal, the Sisters of the Immaculata Hospital in Westlock began to beg him to help them at night and other emergencies when the local doctor was not available. His duties carried on in this fashion for a couple of years, dividing his time between Edmonton, Legal and Westlock.

During this period of practise, he met a very forceful person by the name of Father Eugene Rooney who spent all their visiting hours talking about the hospital here. Father Rooney became a very dear friend of the doctor's and finally persuaded him to come just for a year.

On January 1, 1942 Dr. Whissell moved to Westlock staying at the Sheppard Hotel (now the Westlock





1976 official opening of the new Westlock Airport. L to R: Ted Peok, Art Legg, George Hunt, George Whissell, Bill Glover, Jock Ross (instructor), Larry Clarahen and Miller Watt.

Hotel) until three months later when he purchased a home of their own. Three more children came into the Family, all born at the Immaculata Hospital, Ronald, Brian and Elaine.

For the first two years of his practise, he was the only doctor for a population of seven hundred people. He had to rely on Dr. Sands, the dentist to give the anaesthesia. Sometimes, one of the Sisters had to do the job. As often as possible, Dr. Whissell would operate under a local or spinal anaesthetic. Two years later, he was able to use the services of Dr. Mason who came from Clyde to Westlock.

Before 1940, it was customary for the doctor to solo practise, and out of his home rather than an office. Dr. Whissell spent most of his time making house calls. It was common practise to visit the acutely ill in their home every day. He also called occasionally on the chronically ill and the elderly patients. The doctor was expected to extract teeth, to prepare and dispense medication. The doctor had a pharmacy in his own home. There were no office hours and no appointments. Seeing patients in the evening and on Sundays was common practise. Except for surgery and the very, very ill, people were treated at home. Hospitals had the undesirable reputation that one went there to die.

Previous to the late thirties and early forties there were no tranquillizers, no antibiotics, no steroids, no diuretics (water pills) which helped to revolutionize present day medicine.

During the depression office calls were one dollar, minor care was 50¢ and home visits were two dollars regardless of the number of members examined. Many times, the doctor was paid with a chicken or vegetables.

Maternity cases were charged \$15.00 in town and \$20.00 if the call was in the country. Appendectomies were \$60.00. Tooth extraction without an



Whissell Clinic Building.

anaesthetic was 50¢ and 75¢ with an anaesthetic. All medications were as low as 15¢ and never over a dollar.

The Whissell clinic was officially opened in 1945. Dr. Frank Woodman was the first member to join the clinic. Later Dr. Gilchrist, Dr. Downie and Dr. Fitzgerald joined the group.

In 1952, Dr. J. Deacon opened a clinic known as the Associate Clinic. In 1970, the Central Medical clinic was formed. Presently there are twelve doctors in Westlock to serve a population of less than five thousand people. They also serve the surrounding area. Westlock enjoys more health related services than any other similar sized town in Alberta.

Dr. Whissell is still very active in his profession. He will leave a legacy for his five children and sixteen grandchildren of great interest. He has built a museum at his ranch on Clyde Lake which contains many items of great interest. He has kept all his old instruments, and discarded hospital equipment. He has a wheelchair that is over seventy-five years old. In one of the rooms, an exact replica of his old office will be set up with all the furniture used which is over thirty-five years old. He has kept all his old ledgers from the time he started his practise. He has many valuable books to be placed in the museum.

Dr. Whissell sometimes wonders about the caprice of destiny and how some minor happening (such as having to rent a home in Legal) can change one's whole future.

## Tenth Anniversary of Westlock Nurses Chapter, 1962

On January 21, 1952 the first meeting of the Westlock Nurses Chapter was held in the Westlock Hotel when Mrs. Clara Van Dusen was guest speaker.

After discussion of the history of the A.A.R.N. association, its aims and objectives, projects we could undertake, the Chapter was formed.

It was then decided here, that the meetings would be held on the first Monday of the month at the hospital and the date and place have been the same ever since.

It was also decided that the Chapter would take in members within a radius of twenty-five miles of Westlock. Tea money was ten cents, membership fee fifty cents and in February 1957, times were looking up so tea money was increased to twenty-five cents and membership fee to one dollar.

The first Madam President was Dorothy Roberts for a two year term, followed by Esther Steinger, then Jane Hatherly, Marnie Gilchrist, Marion Leriger then Joyce Schmuland and now the ten years has come full circle back to Dorothy Roberts — who has capably conducted us to our tenth anniversary — and we find that she is still giving us pep talks as are also recorded in the minutes of the first meetings.

Marnie Gilchrist was the first secretary and we find an amusing quotation by her in her minutes:

“Mrs. Gilchrist found the minutes of the meeting a very difficult task and would like to apologize for the many omissions and errors which most of the members will find occurring in the minutes; however it is most confusing when a meeting consists of several small discussion groups and no motions seem to be completed.”

Other secretaries followed Marnie; they were Eileen Doyle, Eleanor Peacock, Loretta Renaud, Doris Flynn and others, ending this year with Gil Jones.

Money making projects ranged from strawberry teas, Telephone bridge in private homes, fashion shows, raffles, baby sitting booth at the fair which realized eight dollars, to rummage sales which in latter years have been our main source of income.

Some of our varied projects have been scholarships for student nurses, blood donor clinics, T.B. clinics, floats at the fair, a booth on ‘Whacky Saturday!’, Career days, Home Nursing Courses, Civil Defence Courses, Home and Hospital visits, visits to Pembina Lodge, Junior Home Nursing and Junior First Aid Courses, representation on the local Alcoholism committee, several nurse refresher courses and assistance to girls going in training, participation on report on accreditation of hospitals. Active interest was taken by the Chapter during the unexpected changes in provincial office.

Each convention has been well represented by the full quota of voting delegates allowed to the Chapter. On one occasion this Chapter provided entertainment at the C.N.A. Convention in Banff, and this

year, in conjunction with Barrhead and Athabasca, provided a splendid program and entertainment in Jasper at the Provincial Convention.

Some of the speakers over the years were represented from Civil Defense, St. Johns Ambulance, T.B. division, Red Cross, Public Health, local doctors, lawyers, veterinarian, Arthritic Clinic. We have also seen several films on diversified subjects.

There have been some lighter moments during these ten years, when we have entertained and been entertained by our own members. Some of the Christmas parties were held in the homes, at Dorothy Roberts’, Esther Stieninger’s, Marnie Gilchrist’s, a surprise birthday party for Dorothy Woodman at her home, and recently our annual party is held at the Anglican Parish Hall. One year, Mrs. Roddick was voted ‘nurse of the year’ in Westlock, by the Chapter. There has also been bridge and canasta parties held in the Clinic suite by the single girls.

It would take a capable historian to record the many humorous and serious decisions that have been made by the members of this Chapter over the past ten years. Many of our original members are now scattered far and wide, however we are most fortunate in having eight of these members still with us: Roberts, Renaud, Roddick, Forbes, Spragge, Day, M. Peter, and M. Gilchrist.

Of those nurses who are now gone and of those who still remain as citizens of Westlock, may it be said that each has contributed in her own way, some small good to this community. So may we continue!!!

## **Twentieth Anniversary of Westlock Nurses Chapter 1972**

Influence never dies, every act and word makes influence for good or evil. For the past twenty years, the nurses of Westlock Chapter had left a good mark on society in this area. Their influence was felt and heard on the provincial level. They stood and fought for principles. They were never afraid to tackle a project. The more difficult it looked, the harder the members worked.

Over a hundred nurses passed through the portals of the Nurses’ Chapter. Many married and remained in this area. Many young women from this area chose the field of nursing because of their influence. Scholarships were given to the students.

A few of the original members are around and very active. Marie Roddick, who one year was chosen Nurse of the year, is still on staff at the Immaculata. Keitha Spragge continues with part-time nursing. Nancy Ukrainetz has recently retired.

Marian Peter will be celebrating her 50th anniversary of her graduation. She raised her family in this



area. Her life has been devoted to this community. In her early years, she was active in the chapter, the church and the needy.

Many presidents left their influence in the years between 1962 to 1972. Dorothy Roberts became president again on the 10th anniversary and is still active in the chapter. Her daughter, Julie-Anne took nursing as a career. Norma Rintall left Westlock. She resides in Edmonton and often returns for Chapter functions. Ingrid Brodeur resides in Westlock. She is blessed with seven children and is a very busy mother. Lillian Kumish has left Westlock. She is residing in Edmonton. She too, comes back for chapter functions. Barbara Wilkinson worked here as a young nurse in the health unit. She became a bride in Westlock and now resides in Athabasca. Loree Buchanan has left and resides in Red Deer. Loree was the Head Nurse at the Auxiliary Hospital and also returns for functions. Mary Mitenko came as a young bride and now has four lovely children. She has been and still is very active.

Marion Leriger came to Westlock from Grande Prairie in 1957, when her husband was transferred here with the Municipal Affairs Dept. She has been very active in the Chapter, has nursed at the Immaculata and is now Head Nurse at the Nursing Home.

We might say with pride that Shirley Morie is a product of the Nurses Chapter. Shirley was a local girl who did well. She received a scholarship from the Chapter, graduated from the Edmonton General Hospital, married and came back to live in Westlock. She is the Director of Nursing of the Auxiliary Hospital and the Nursing Home. She has always been very active in the Chapter, as well as on committees on the provincial level. Besides nursing, she is busy raising two daughters.

Glenda Polis came as a new graduate. She resides here and has continued to nurse at the Immaculata and the Auxiliary Hospitals. She is raising two children.

Joyce Schmuland left Westlock to reside in Campbell River. While in Westlock, she was very active in the Nurses Chapter.

Joyce Nadeau, who is a product of Westlock, came back to nurse in the Immaculata hospital and married here. Joyce has been an influence on the nurses; she has always had courage in her convictions and has never been afraid to speak up. She has one child.

In 1962, Keitha Spragge and her daughter Isabel were honored at the Christmas Party. Keitha is an original member. Through her influence, Isabel became a nurse. She was a chapter member, married and lived in Westlock for some years.

The Home Nursing Course was taught. Nurses

became interested in the Alcoholism Foundation, and Blood Donor Clinics were a semi-annual affair.

Many good speakers were invited to Chapter Meetings. We saw missionary nursing in Africa on film by Miss McDougall. Mr. J. Bryant spoke to the members on Music Appreciation. The Director of Nursing Recruitment, Miss Quirk, gave a talk on how to encourage girls to enter into the nursing field.

We donated books on Nursing to the school and the public library.

The highlight of the year was hosting the 1962 A.A.R.N. Convention in Jasper. Athabasca and Barrhead nurses co-hosted with the Westlock Chapter. It was classed as the largest and most successful convention. Jasper-the-bear costumes were worn by the hostesses. Many pictures of that event have been saved. We had tremendous support from the Jasper Chamber of Commerce.

In 1963, the yearly projects continued. The Scarlet Commission was of great interest. Intense study and presentation was carried out by Katherine Holyk.

Several members took orientation courses. Mrs. Marian Leriger and Sr. Rose Francis took the Disaster Planning for Hospitals Course. Lily Shank acted as camp nurse for the Brownies. This was her project for a few years.

Members were always represented at the A.A.R.N. Conventions. Never less than two attended. Detailed reports were given.

The monthly programs consisted of flower arrangements, films of the World's Fair were shown, Care of a Premature Baby by Dr. E. Fitzgerald and Injections by Dr. R. Little.

Engraved spoons were purchased as gifts to be given to members leaving.

Fluoridation was the chief interest in 1964. Support was given to the dentists. When no results were received, a plebiscite was instigated. A delay in equipment brought action from the Chapter. Many articles on Fluoridation were published in the local paper about this campaign.

Baby-sitting Safety Course and First Aid Courses were taught. Dr. R. Weinberg spoke on the Advantages in Pediatrics.

The Auxiliary Hospital was formally opened. Members assisted in the event.

In 1965, the members participated in the Structural Study, which took considerable time.

Mental Health became a prime interest. Three nurses attended the President's Institutes.

Guest speakers for the year were Dr. Whissell on "Neurosis and the Nurse's Role", Professor Perroni on "Line Staff Relations", Miss Hogan on "Emergency Measures", and Mr. Smart on "The Canadian Mental Health Situation".

Five nurses attended the A.A.R.N. Convention.

In 1966, the first formal dance was sponsored by the Chapter. This event was to enable the younger nurses to become acquainted with the citizens of this area. This project continued for years.

The rummage sale was another project founded by the Chapter. It was something new to the community. From then on, other organizations took advantage of this for money-raising projects.

In October of that year, the meetings were held at the Auxiliary Hospital. At the initial meeting the members were given a tour of the institution by the Director of Nursing, Mrs. S. Morie.

The education programs consisted of I.V. Therapy, Corrective Surgery for Female Causes of Infertility, Care of Maternity Patients, Genetics, Rashes on Children, Services provided by the Health Unit, Resuscitation and Cardiac Arrest.

Interesting reports were brought back from meetings and seminars on the following: General meeting held in Red Deer, the Centennial Meeting, the Constructive Suggestions and the Executive, Nursing Supervision Committee, Staff Nursing Seminar on Nursing Education and Evaluation.

The election of officers changed to coincide with the North Central District. Members will hold office until April of each year.

In 1967, the A.A.R.N. saw the need of a Staff Association for nurses in order to better their working conditions, wages and primarily to give good patient care. A Staff Association Workshop was held in Westlock. There was a large attendance with nurses coming from many areas.

Sister Pauletta left the Immaculata Hospital after many years of nursing. She retired to the Motherhouse in Halifax.

The Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada was another project which took considerable time.

Seventy-five people attended the Geriatric Course sponsored by the Chapter.

Programs for the year were: Young People and the New Morality, Diabetes, Slides of Europe and the Education Program which was held at the University of Alberta.

In June, there was a sod-turning ceremony on the new addition to the Immaculata Hospital.

The June meeting was held in the form of a weiner roast at the home of Lily Shank.

The December Christmas Party and meeting was held at Murtha's Cafe. Many of the old members returned for that occasion.

More educational programs seemed to be stressed in 1968.

Programs for the year were: a lecture on Renal

Dialysis, a workshop on Legal Aspects in Nursing, a study on by-laws, revision of the Chapter By-laws, Mental Health Program, a film on LSD-Insight or Insanity, a Social Welfare Study, and a study of the Ward System.

A gavel was purchased.

The formal opening of the Immaculata on October 30th was assisted by the Nurses Chapter. (It is amusing to note that when the government officials saw so many R.N.'s, they could not believe there was a shortage of staff.)

Mrs. Nancy Ukrainetz became interested in Oxfam. Much work was done by her and other members for this worthy cause.

There was a proposed boundry change in the North Central District. A rally was held in September.

The Diagnostic Health Program was sponsored by the Sturgeon Health Unit. Many of the members assisted in this project which was held in Thorhild.

Assistance was given to the Hospital Tag Day — \$550.00 was realized. \$100.00 was donated by the Chapter for bedding in the Children's Ward of the Immaculata.

Sister Rose Francis retired and left for Boston. Sister Evelyn Clare left to further her education.

The Christmas Party was a success. The Staff Association was again brought up and the employed nurses were urged to form an association.

Bill 119 caused a great deal of concern to the members in 1969. It was studied, briefs were presented, members of parliament were contacted. The bill was opposed in its entirety.

A workshop was held on Geriatric Care with nurses from the Barrhead Chapter attending. Sister Anna Marie was nominated to attend the I.C.N. Congress, with expenses to be shared with Barrhead so that they too would receive the report. Specialling fees went up to \$24.00 for eight hours.

Walkathon was added to the Oxfam Project — \$4,725.00 was realized.

Guest speakers for the year chose the following topics: Multiple Sclerosis, Fire Protection, Psychotherapy for Better Living, Prescription for Life, Drug Abuse in the Community, and Physiotherapy and Passive Therapy.

In 1970, we welcomed the first male graduate R.N., Marshall Berezanski, who was educated in Westlock and received his degree at Mount Royal. He nursed at the Auxiliary Hospital. Marshall was a guest speaker in October, choosing "The Two-Year Program in Nursing" as his topic.

After four years, the formal dance was discontinued. The \$24.00 realized from the project was donated to the Heart Monitor Fund.



A joint meeting of the two chapters was held in Barrhead to help stimulate interest in their area. There was excellent attendance.

On July 27th, 1970, the Westlock Nursing Home was formally opened. Members of the Chapter assisted on that day and Marion Leriger formally took over her duties as head nurse.

Home Nursing and Baby-sitting Courses were held. Assistance at the Hospital Tag Day was again given.

The educational lectures consisted of Preventative Welfare, Psychological Aspects of Nursing in a Disaster, Tranquillizers — Use and Abuse, By-laws Study, Death and Bereavement, and Birth Control.

The Christmas Party was changed. It was held in St. Mary's Parish Hall with the members acting as hostesses.

The highlight project of 1971 was the Fashion Show, held at the Auxiliary Hospital. Members of the Chapter were models. The show in its entirety was put on by the members. \$90.00 was realized. Many favourable comments were given by the public.

The Chapter sponsored a T.B. Clinic. It was a success due to the detailed planning of the Chapter.

A joint dinner meeting was set up with the Barrhead and Athabasca Chapters. Nurses supported the proposal of a Guidance Clinic; the request was sent to the local M.L.A.

Two educational programs of interest were — "Organ transplants" and "Adolescent and Family Life".

A booth was sponsored at the Trade Fair in August. The topic chosen was "Prevention Cheaper Than Cure". It drew great interest from the public.

Three nurses attended the A.A.R.N. Convention in Banff and so ended another ten years of Chapter History.

This History must not be closed without mentioning the silent majority, the nurses who quietly go along their way and help in the community as individuals or as groups. May the ten years to come keep the Chapter in the forefront as it has done in the past.

### **Westlock Nurses Chapter 25th Anniversary, 1977**

The Westlock Nurses Chapter celebrated its 25th anniversary on December 2, 1977. A banquet and dance was held at the Legion Hall.

Many charter members were honored with corsages on this evening. Among these were Dorothy Roberts, who was our first president, Keitha Spragge and Loretta Renaud, who remain active members in the chapter and Marie Roddick, Doreen Forbes.

Other members honored for their longstanding service were Nancy Ukrainetz, Lil Shank, Marion Leriger and Shirley Morie.

During the past five years the Westlock Nurses Chapter has continued to be of service to the community. Blood Donor Clinics were held biannually, with good turnouts. In 1976, a mascot called "Bloody Mary" was obtained to present to the club with the largest representation. The Chamber of Commerce won it that year, forfeiting it to the Legion in June, 1977. Babysitting courses were given in 1974 and again in 1976. In 1974, the Chapter donated funds to the Immaculata Hospital to assist in obtaining a badly needed Gas Analyzing machine.

Two of the major projects over the past five years were an Arthritic Workshop held in November, 1974 and a Blood pressure Clinic in May, 1975. Dr. Silverberg, who is involved with artificial kidneys and kidney transplants at the University of Alberta Hospital, instigated the project. As the result of this survey, many citizens of Westlock and the community were surveyed and many treated for ailments caused by high blood pressure.

Fashion shows and rummage sales have been sponsored by the Nurses Chapter during the past five years.

Many interesting guest speakers have presented enlightening talks during this time. Films have been available for our viewing, such as "School Bus Disaster" and "Head Injuries." In November of 1976 "Rape Crisis" was presented to the public, sponsored by the Chapter.

In June of 1977, the Immaculata Hospital celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The Nurses Chapter assisted in the plans and decorations for this occasion.

Continuing education has been a main concern. A Sociology course, The Family, leading towards a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, was set up in the latter part of 1977. This course will be offered in January of 1978.

In conclusion, it must be mentioned that many nurses have donated their time and efforts in order to make the Westlock Nurses Chapter one of the oldest and most active in the province. So may we continue for many more years.

### **Westlock Nurses Chapter 30th Anniversary — 1982 by Marion Leriger**

A dinner meeting in celebration of our thirtieth anniversary was held at the Westlock Inn with some of our original members present, Loretta Renaud, Dorothy Roberts, Hannah Murphy and Keitha Spragge — and some of long standing service; Nancy Ukrainetz, Lil (Shank) Silverthorn, Marian Leriger, Joanne Montgomery, Shirley Morie, Doreen Forbes. Other members present who have been very active in the community were Gina Wilkinson, Melba Nelson, Kokie Patel, Elsebeth Gomes, Janet

Seigle, Beatrice Hawreluk and Duffy Fleming. We said "Farewell" to one of our staunch chapter members, Kathryn Holyk who is moving to Vancouver. Marie Roddick was with us in our thoughts but was unable to be there.

Elsebeth Gomes is our very able President in this 30th. year, Loretta Renaud is Secretary and Marion Leriger, Treasurer. Lillian Silverthorn still convenes the Blood Donor Clinic Committee.

As in the past thirty years, the chapter still sponsors blood donor clinics, baby-sitting courses, workshops on such interesting topics as Kidney Foundation, Teen-age suicide. Pediatrics, and medical aspects of weight control. We have continued to give annual bursaries to a local High School Graduate

who has enrolled in Nursing Training in Alberta. We continue our bi-annual social events — the Christmas Party and the June barbecue at Jan Seigle's home.

Our chapter memberships have dropped but our interest in nursing aspects in the community have broadened with the urbanization of the area. We have a heritage of over thirty years of active service to the community to be proud of. We have welcomed many new nurses to our chapter group and even though we do not plan to continue meeting as frequently as in the past, our interest in the nursing needs of this community will always be our primary interest and we will each remain ambassadors for Good Health.







# Law and Order

## Law and Order in Clyde

**Kathleen MacLachlan**

The first North-West Rebellion in the Red River colony in 1870 prompted the Dominion Government to realize the necessity for an organized law-enforcement body to maintain peace in the North West. Consequently the North West Mounted Police force, 300 strong, was established in 1872, mostly of volunteers from Eastern Canada, especially Ontario. This group of recruits marched westward from Lake Superior, establishing bases in Dufferin, Manitoba, Fort Walsh in Saskatchewan, and Fort McLeod in Alberta. From these bases patrols spread out establishing small detachments along the Border with the United States, and extending northward to the interior of the Prairie Provinces. ("Royal" was not added to their title until 1904.)

The C.P.R. had not been completed, and miles of terrain through which the policemen marched were submerged in muskeg interlaced with small creeks and rivers which they had to ford to reach their destinations. They took with them hundreds of horses to serve as their mounts, wagons of hay, and carts of oats to feed the animals, plus their gear, guns and ammunition. Obviously, even though these men were raw recruits, they possessed physical and mental stamina far above average. A rigorous training program was necessary, and for most of the men who served in Alberta, Regina was the training base.

Horsemanship was a prime requirement. The recruits spent hours of each day feeding, grooming, training, exercising and chambermaiding their mounts. How important this was is evident when one considers the horse was the only mode of travel of that period. There were no trains, buses, airplanes, nor, indeed wireless communication. The Mounties' duties were numerous: patrolling outlying settlements to check for illness or starvation in drought areas; to seek out cattle rustlers; to track down horse thieves; to apprehend smugglers bringing contraband across the International border; and finally, to act as liaison between whitemen and Indians who outnumbered them by thousands.

These duties they performed with courage and distinction.

With the extension of branch lines of the railway northward, to Calgary and Edmonton, and the establishment of the C.N.R. through northern Alberta, settlements in the province mushroomed. Small police detachments were in most expanding communities. Calgary, Red Deer, Fort Saskatchewan and Edmonton come to mind.

In 1911-12 the C.N.R. pushing northwards towards Athabasca reached the Village of Clyde then recently surveyed, having its hotel with liquor license. With many bachelor residents and others who also liked to imbibe, over-indulgence often resulted. On occasions when violence and property destruction took place, the R.N.W.M.P. were called upon to arbitrate.

Bob Warrior who was the first police constable in Clyde, about 1911, had many such chores in the course of his duties. As there was no police barracks in the Village at that time, Bob persuaded Knud Olsen to rent one room of his house as temporary quarters — one corner for his desk for "paper work", and another, framed with 2 by 4's as a cell to "lock up" prisoners and drunks awaiting trial. The Olsen family lived in the other parts of the two-story frame home. This set-up carried on for a few months until Olsen had finished another house which became the first permanent "headquarters" in Clyde.

Among the inebriates who frequently occupied the "cell" was George Clyde. When he had had too much he became abusive both verbally and physically. If it were only a case of loud and threatening behavior, he could be cooled by sleeping it off in the cell. However, when he got beyond this to the extent of kicking in some of the door panels in the local hotel, a formal charge was laid, he was brought to the blanket in the cell, and after sleeping it off, had to face charges of public nuisance and damaging private property. The local magistrate, Arthur Lucas, was summoned to preside at the hearing. This august Englishman with a considerable background of legal



procedure at his command set a sobering atmosphere for the offender, who having slept the night in the barrack confines, was in fact quite sober, and eager to be free. Conversation in the courtroom ran somewhat as follows:

(Warrior having mislaid the Bible proffered a similar sized volume entitled "Horse Care and Branding". G. Clyde pointing asks: "Is that the Good Book?" Warrior is noncommittal.) G. Clyde with hand on the book: Officer, what is the charge? Warrior: Drunken and disorderly conduct!

Clyde: (Appealing to Lucas) Arthur, you see, it was like this — Lucas: (Not awaiting Clyde's explanation) Ten dollars and costs! The costs were for the magistrate's travelling expenses via horse and buggy from his farm two miles away. Released from his short confinement with the law, George Clyde demeaned himself in the gentlemanly manner which was his custom except when he was sloshed. To any newcomer in the district, he would make his introduction by patting himself on the chest and saying "I am George D. Clyde, the Father of Clyde, Scotch Presbyterian."

Constable Warrior was shortly transferred from Clyde, and, many years later headed the Detective Force in Edmonton. He was replaced in Clyde by Constable Bert Smith, who in turn was replaced by Constable V. McGillicuddy, each of whom served the area only a few months. It seemed the policy of police headquarters was to rotate their men frequently. Perhaps it was feared that an officer might become friendly with people in the district to the detriment of bringing offenders to justice?

By 1912, Constable Knud Henriksen was assigned to the Clyde District. He rented the newly finished Olsen house at the corner of first street for the first police "barracks" in the village. The building housed the office, lock-up cell, and living quarters for the policeman. In those days, rules dictated that policemen could not marry until they had completed seven years of service. Hence, most officers slept at their barracks, and had their meals at the local hotel, or, if on the road, at whatever point they happened to be, paying a subsistence allowance to the person who fed them.

Henriksen's stay in the community was a very active one. Besides rounding up the usual drunks and disorderlies, those charged with cruelty to animals by starvation, he patrolled the countryside to bring supplies to the needy. He also had a most unique experience. The local storekeeper reported receiving some 50 cent pieces which did not seem genuine. Upon close examination, Henriksen decided they were counterfeit. But where they were coming from was a mystery. Finally, with much sleuthing he fer-

reted out the source, miles beyond Dapp, at an isolated homestead. The alleged counterfeiter had a most expensive camera, dyes, and paper which nearly matched the "real" stuff. When caught he had almost perfected \$10.00 bills which would no doubt have brought a boom to Clyde! Charged with illicit production of currency, the culprit was jailed at Fort Saskatchewan to await trial. The District Court with Judge Taylor presiding journeyed to Clyde for the sitting. This was an event never to be duplicated. The local dance hall was rented for the sitting, and everyone in the community attended. After the evidence was presented, and the exhibits shown, Judge Taylor found the prisoner guilty, and sentenced him to 14 years. Shortly after this Henriksen was promoted to the rank of Corporal for his apprehension of the criminal.

With the outbreak of World War I, in August, 1914, many Canadians wishing to help the "Motherland", volunteered their services. A Canadian contingent was formed, but these were inexperienced men who must receive months of basic training before being ready to go overseas. Knud Henriksen, with previous military service in addition to his police training was impatient to get to the scene of battle, and feared that if he waited for recruitment with the Canadian troops, he would not see action soon enough to satisfy his urge to be at the front. Hence he resigned from the R.N.W.M.P. to go overseas and enlist in the British army. This was an ill-fated decision. He elected to sail from New York on the Lusitania. On May 7, 1915, when this liner was torpedoed by the German U-20 submarine off the shore of Ireland, Knud Henriksen was among the 1198 passengers who lost their lives. It was an untimely end for an officer who had served the Royal North-West Mounted Police so well.

By 1917, the police force was being decimated by the recruitments to the War. The Province of Alberta elected to have its own force, known as the Alberta Provincial Police (A.P.P.) which continued to operate until 1932 when it was taken over again by the Federal Government and became the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In 1917, prohibition became law in Alberta, and so remained until 1924. During this period, "stills" producing "moonshine", "white mule", 100% and all such forms of illicit liquor were hidden in many cellars, hay stacks and manure piles throughout the province. Of course it became the policeman's job to seek these out and punish the offenders. Confiscating the liquor as evidence, and tasting it to be sure it was the deadly potion must have been a challenge to the tastebuds!

Art Welton is remembered as an A.P.P. officer stationed at Clyde. He was succeeded by Jim Smith.



The Force was then moved to Barrhead for a short time. Then in the early 20's it was moved back to Clyde with Sergeant Watt in charge. Sergeant Watt, it will be remembered, had previously taken part in the bootleg murderer Picarello's conviction in the Coal Branch. Interestingly enough, Sergeant Buchanan, for some years in charge of the Westlock Detachment, was at Fort Saskatchewan at the hanging of Picarello and his girl friend convicted of murder, in this bootleg war.

In the "dirty thirties" hundreds of men out of work and hungry "rode the rods", meaning they entered empty box cars or flat cars on the railway and rode free to anywhere they thought work might be available. The railway companies did not like this practice for obvious reasons. It became the policeman's job to "round up" these free riders whenever they were spotted at any station. Generally the officer told them to "get off": This they did, but later at the opposite side of the track, when the train started moving and the officer was out of sight, they remounted and rode to the next stop. This was an unrewarding facet of police work.

After World War I, most patrol work was done by car, and the horse became obsolete except for the Musical Rides and State guards. Also the work for the Force took on a different character. Mark Orkin, in his book of Canadian definitions poking fun at Canadian pronunciation in general, gives this gem: (defining R.C.M.P.), Arsey Em Pee — a papa military body combining the most distinctive features of the army (red coats), the civil service (red tape) the secret service (red hunting) and politics (red her-rings). Also known as the "Moundies."

### **The Westlock Police Story (R.C.M. Police) written by Bert Gamble from information supplied from Police Records and The Archives**

During the Klondike Gold Rush detachments were maintained at Lesser Slave Lake, Peace River Landing and Athabasca Landing. The Westlock area was policed from Fort Saskatchewan. The Westlock Detachment was opened sometime in 1916 as part of "G" Division at Edmonton. The detachment was opened on the E.D. and B.C. Railway to cover the work previously performed at Barrhead and Clyde. A Sergeant and two Constables were stationed here. We do not know the names of these individuals, but Constable McGillicudy's name has been mentioned. The Westlock Detachment was closed early in 1918 after the Alberta Provincial Police had taken over the responsibility of policing the province. The Alberta Provincial Police maintained a detachment at Westlock. This area was covered by Sergeant William Warr Watt, a former Royal North West Mounted

Police officer. (A story of Sergeant Watt will be found elsewhere in the book). He covered this large area alone and very well, according to the many stories that are told about him. He worked from Clyde for awhile, before being installed in the building on highway 18, close to the hospital. In 1931 he was joined by Judd Underwood, who was known as "Pistol Pete". (I suppose it was because he always wore his gun in full view).



First Police Barracks — Clyde, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



R.C.M. Police Detachment, Westlock, 1935.

In April of 1932 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force absorbed the Alberta Provincial Police and many detachments were re-opened. A number of members of the A.P.P. were also taken on by the Force. Westlock Detachment was re-opened May 28, 1932 as part of "K" Division. Constables C. P. G. Fordham and E. F. McCarthy were stationed here. An eight roomed house on the south side of Highway 18 on Westlock Boulevard was taken over from the Alberta Provincial Police.

The building was owned by the Department of Public Works. In 1944 six rooms were added to this building and space was provided for detachment of-



fice and living quarters for the N.C.O. i/c and four other members. The control of the building was transferred from Department of Public Works to the Force in 1965. Finally, in 1968 a contract was awarded for build-for-lease accommodation to the Molstad Development Company Limited of Edmonton, for their new headquarters in East Glen. This building was occupied February 10, 1970.

Following is a list of the men who have served on the Westlock Detachment since it was re-opened in 1932:



Constable George B. McLellan.

Cst. C. P. G. Fordham	1932
Cst. E. F. McCarthy	1932-1934
Cst. G. B. McClellan	1933-1936
Cst. E. E. Buchanan	1934-1944
Cst. J. E. Fountain	1936-1938
Cst. J. J. Watkins	1936-1937
S/Cst. R. H. Wallis	1936-1937
Cst. E. J. Watts	1937-1938
Cst. R. J. Kidston	1937-1938
Cst. J. E. B. Hallett	1938-1939
Cst. J. N. D. Thurston	1938-1939



Constable J. E. Fountain, Constable J. E. B. Hallett and Corporal E. E. Buchanan.

Cst. L. G. Dag	1939-1940
Cst. N. McLeod	1939-1941
Cst. M. R. Eaton	1940-1941
Cst. J. A. Sherwood	1941-1942
Cst. R. Thomas	1941-1942
Cst. G. N. Jones	1942-1943
Cst. R. Mulcaster	1942-1943
Cst. A. H. Rosengren	1942-1943
Cst. R. H. McKinney	1943-1945
Cst. P. G. Hunt	1943-1945
Cpl. G. W. Graves	1945-1947
Cst. R. M. Allen	1945-1947
Cst. W. W. MacLeod	1945-1947
Cpl. R. W. Thompson	1947-1952
Cst. C. N. Lauer	1947-1948
Cst. T. W. S. Band	1948-1949
Cst. N. H. G'N Madsen	1948-1953
Cst. M. Mykytiuk	1948-1949
Cst. R. M. Allan	1949-1951
Cst. V. C. Smith	1949-1950
Cst. W. H. M. Brace	1950-1955
Cst. V. G. Smith	1950-1954
Cst. E. B. Kelsberg	1951-1952
Cpl. J. F. Steininger	1952-1957
Cst. A. D. Clearwater	1953-1957
Cst. C. F. English	1953-1954
Cst. N. E. Linfoot	1953-1954
Cst. A. H. Haas	1953-1959
Cpl. F. J. Bigg	1954-1959
Cst. V. F. Smith	1954-1955

Cst. G. A. Gray	1955-1961
Cst. A. C. Anderson	1955-1957
Cpl. K. A. Sanderson	1957-1959
Cst. T. J. V. Joynt	1957-1959
Cst. B. B. MacWhirter	1957-1959
Sgt. S. Surby	1959-1963
Cst. A. P. Dirk	1959-1963
Cst. R. N. Eberley	1959-1963
Cst. M. F. Keller	1959-1961
Cst. W. A. Ripley	1959-1961
Cst. D. R. Murray	1959-1961
Cst. D. J. Graham	1961-1965
Cst. A. R. Puhlmann	1961-1963
Cst. J. T. St. Pierre	1961-1967
S/Sgt. W. F. L. Murray	1963-1967
Cst. D. I. Carr	1963-1967
Cst. R. J. Davies	1963-1965
Cst. J. D. Murdock	1963-1965
Cst. R. R. Reorda	1963-1965
S/Sgt. G. R. Johnston	1965-1969
Cpl. J. E. Snider	1965-1969
Cpl. R. A. Dzikowski	1965-1967
Cst. J. D. Moodie	1965-1967
Cst. T. W. B. Thorkelson	1965-1967
Cst. G. S. Bryce	1967-1969
Cst. D. E. Donnelly	1967-1969
Cst. D. A. L. Lowman	1967-1969
Cst. D. R. Marshall	1967-1970
Cst. A. P. Palmer	1967-1969
Cst. W. D. Jones	1967-1969
Cst. D. G. Kondro	1967-1969
Sgt. L. A. O'Brien	1969-1972
Cst. R. A. Lewis	1969-1970
Cst. J. H. Graham	1969-1970
Cst. S. G. Swick	1969-1974
Cst. G. S. Bryce	1969-1970
Cst. N. W. Ritchie	1969-1970
Cst. P. Timms	1970-1976
Cst. M. J. Rea	1970-1974
Cst. J. Griffiths	1970-1973
Cst. D. A. Bennett	1970-1973
Cst. F. Witholt	1970-1971
Cst. W. B. Tegg	1970-1977
P/s. S. J. Oko	1971-1976
Sgt. L. J. Beaton	1972-1975
2/Cst. R. C. Dishan	1972-1977
2/Cst. M. W. Light	1973-1978
Cst. D. A. L. Lowman	1973
Cst. R. D. Ellis	1973
Cst. I. F. Kuhn	1973-1978
Cpl. J. A. McIntosh	1974-1978
Cst. R. B. Wright	1974
Cst. K. W. Jersey	1974
Cst. R. W. Mow	1974-1979
Cst. M. S. C. Dickinson	1975-1977
Cst. P. A. Boddy	1975
Cst. A. N. Garbolinski	1975-1976
Cst. G. J. D. Rennick	1976
S/Sgt. G. T. Sinclair	1976-1977
Cst. C. B. Smith	1976-1981
Cst. W. M. J. Kuntz	1977-1981
Cst. K. R. Hendrick	1977-1979
Cst. D. B. Stevely	1977
Cr3. C. A. Erdman	1977-1979
S/Sgt. L. R. Wells	1978
Cst. D. W. Hancock	1977-1980
Cst. M. T. McMahon	1978-Present
Cst. K. Chaput	1978-1982
Cst. D. H. McCorriston	1978-Present

Cst. R. R. Naas	1979-1981
S/Sgt. W. A. Hutmacher	1978-1981
Cpl. V. B. McFarlane	1978-Present
Cst. D. N. Tucker	1978-1979
Cst. R. J. Jeffrey	1980-Present
Cst. C. L. Gerow	1979-Present
Cst. I. S. Wight	1980
Cst. Murray Ash	1980-1983
Cst. Cheryl Joyce	1980-1981
Cst. Rick Quin	1980-Present
Cst. Mike Stencky	1981-Present
S/Sgt. Doug Bottoms	1981-1983
Cst. Dave Cook	1982-Present
Cst. Mike Martin	1981-Present
Cst. Vicki Naylor	1982-Present
Cst. Rob Norum	1982-Present
Cst. Jerry Low	1982-Present
Cst. Gerry Hoyland	1983-Present
Cst. Dave Grevott	1983-Present
Cst. Tom Dolan	1983-Present
S/Sgt. Ray Mercier	1983-Present

Some of these men retired as Commissioned Officers, One as Reg.S/Major in Ottawa, others as S-Sgts, Sub Div.N.C.Os or Sgts.

Special mention should be made of George B. McClellan, who rose from Constable to Commissioner of "K" Division and later was Provincial Ombudsman. He died of a heart attack in July, 1982.

E. E. Buchanan, who served in Westlock from 1934 to 1944, who retired as a Senior Staff Sergeant is now living in Edmonton. In 1982, along with twenty other retired members of the Force, he was presented with a long Service Award.



Jack Bigg, taken in Regina in 1938.



Sergeant F. J. (Jack) Bigg resigned from the Force to enter politics and was elected Member of Parliament for the Athabasca Constituency and with the realignment of boundaries in 1968 it is now known as the Pembina Constituency.

There are sixteen members on the Forces at the present time.

## **Westlock Police Force Sixty Years Ago** **written by George Hoke**

It is hard to believe, when we consider our efficient R.C.M.P. local detachment of today with sixteen officers and a fleet of high powered automobiles, that sixty years ago the task of maintaining law and order in Westlock and surrounding district was accomplished with a police force of a single man.

Prior to 1918, Alberta was policed by men of the old R.C.N.W.M. Police which was later simplified to the present R.C.M. Police.

In 1918, Alberta formed its own Alberta Provincial Police force enrolling many officers of the old Federal force who had retired or otherwise resigned. Such a man was Sergeant William Warr Watt.

William Warr Watt, ex R.C.N.W.M. Police and unsuccessful farmer from southern Alberta, was one of the first to join the new Provincial Force. He was soon assigned to what we now know as Westlock and District and began his service from a temporary base in Clyde, Alberta. Westlock was beginning to grow with potential for a large town and the building we now call the old barracks was built and Sergeant Watt installed therein.

Thereafter for ten years this weather-beaten, tireless ex-Mountie policed his beat which included all of the present municipality and beyond. Sergeant Watt covered his patrols on horseback and on foot. Sometimes he hired a team and buggy from the local livery. The last few years of his assignment became somewhat easier when roads developed to a point where a car could be used.

The late John Marshall, son of livery man Alex Marshall, described to me one such Police patrol into the bush country east of Jarvie and barely passable road ending at Dapp corner. From there several trails wound through dense bush to pass here and there a homesteader or a homesteader's family isolated each in their own little clearing. At Dapp corner Sergeant Watt dismounted and, as he slung his light packsack to his back, turned to John saying "Wait for me here. I will be back exactly an hour before sunset," and he trotted into the bush and was gone. Almost to the minute and hour before sunset the Sergeant reappeared as he promised. As the two drove home to Westlock, John said from the Policeman's resume of his day's hike, he probably covered thirty miles.

Besides routine duty, Sergeant Watt was something of a detective.

One particular incident involved the theft of a certain farmer's turkeys just before Thanksgiving. The Sergeant was called to the scene. There were no tracks, no clues, nothing. All the farmer knew he was missing some turkeys and coyotes were not to blame.

On Thanksgiving day the Sergeant and his little family enjoyed a fine turkey dinner at a local Chinese restaurant. "Good turkey" exclaimed the policeman as he paid the proprietor. "Where'd you buy those turkeys?" "Got him from so-and-so." "What did you do with the insides?" was the next question. "Me dump him on ash-pile out back" was the answer.

At the turkey farm, the Sergeant showed the farmer some fragments of pottery he had found in the crops and gizzards behind the restaurant. The farmer's wife recognized a floral design as one that she had on some of her dishes and admitted having broken a saucer recently.

The evidence was enough to convict two turkey thieves.

Early in 1931 after ten years of service in Westlock, Sergeant Watt became ill and was forced to retire from the Alberta Provincial Police. He was 55 years old. He died shortly after his retirement.

# Our Roll of Honour



War Memorial — Westlock.





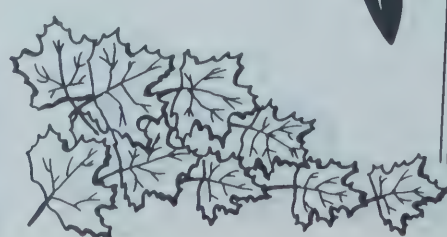
# Our Roll of Honour

## Veterans of World War I

Adkins, Bill  
Adkins, George  
Adkins, Jim  
Adkins, Martin  
Adkins, Will  
Alexander,  
Aquin, Alphonse  
Armstrong, Walter  
Astill, Sydney  
Backman, Wilfred  
Banks, Ted  
Bates, Minor  
Beaston, J.  
Beaton, George  
Berwick, Cyrel  
Bibby, Charles  
Bird, Sammy  
Boon, Eddie  
Bowles, Tom  
Bradford, R.  
Breadner, C.  
Brown, Archie  
Brown, David  
Brown, William  
Carlson, Gustav R.  
Casavant, Joe  
Colbourn, Reg  
Coley, Tom  
Coles, Frank  
Crane, George  
Crick, J. M.  
Currey, George  
Daily, Bert  
Day, Wilfred  
Digby, John  
Donald, Robert  
Donely, Jack  
Donovan, Jack  
Dunncliffe, Arthur  
Dyke, Jerry  
Foster, Bob  
Fox, Jack Sr.

Fox, Jack  
Fraser, J.  
Garon, Adeland  
Gibson, Bruce  
Gibson, Irvin  
Gilchrist, Bill  
Gray, John  
Gower, Victor  
Green, William  
Guest, Fred  
Guest, George  
Guest, Harold  
Hall, William  
Hammond, Jim  
Hansen, Olaf  
Hollingshead, Archie  
Holmes,  
Illington, Jack  
Jamison, George  
Jones, Owen  
Kinsella, Max  
Kinsella, Ray  
Kirby, Cliff  
Lawrence, Tom  
Leake, Charles  
Leake, E. T.  
LeGasse, Frank  
Loree, Charles  
Loree, Lawrence  
Lyons, Bert  
Lucas, Arthur  
McCabe, Alvah  
MacGregor, Murdoch  
Magre, William  
Main, Norman  
Marshall, Angus  
McCrae, Jack  
McCullough, William  
McDougall, Mac  
McGregor, Peter  
McKay, Alex  
McLean, John G.

Miller, George  
Miller, John McKay  
Mills, James  
Morris, Bob  
Murray, Archie  
Murray, Karl E.  
Murray, William  
Nelson, Albert  
Newcombe, Lloyd  
Pem, Jack  
Peters, Harry  
Pollard, Jim  
Ralph, Femlin  
Raymont, Percy  
Riche, James  
Robertson, Bob  
Robins, William  
Round, Ed  
Roy, Jack  
Row, Mert  
Sabourin, Eli  
Sabourin, Elie  
Sanddigger, Pete  
Scarlett, William  
Schmidt, Bill  
Stanley, Edwin  
Steele, F. H.  
Stutchbury, E. W.  
Sylvester, Jack  
Taylor, Thomas  
Telfer, Andrew  
Telfer, Erick  
Turner, Rex  
VanAlstine, J. Archie  
Ward, Murray  
Weaber, Sid  
Webber, Fred  
White, Richard  
Wilson, Gary  
Wilson, Harold  
Wilson, Lloyd  
Workman, James



# Our Roll of Honour

## Veterans of World War II

Adkins, Albert  
Adkins, Alice  
Adkins, Bertha  
Adkins, Eunice  
Adkins, Sheila  
Adkins, William  
Aitkens, M.  
Allen, Robert  
Allen, S. Wilson  
Anderson, Hallett  
Anger, J.  
Anger, L.  
Armitage, Harry  
Armitage, Ward  
Ashton, G. O.  
Ashton, P.  
Astill, Sidney  
Aucoin, Andrew  
Bannister, Morgan  
Bates, Arthur  
Beakhouse, Leslie  
Beakhouse, Philip  
Dell, A.  
Bell, A. A.  
Berwick, D.  
Berwick, J.  
Bidne, Orland  
Bilton, Gavin  
Binns, T. H. C.  
Birks, G.  
Bishop, D. C.  
Bowen, A. W.  
Bowes, H. R.  
Bowles, J. W.  
Bowles, R. W.  
Boyd, Garfield  
Boyd, Ora. G.  
Brawner, Roy  
Bremner, Ray  
Brooks, Andre  
Brouillette, D.  
Brouillette, W.  
Brown, Earl  
Brown, H.

Brown, Leslie  
Brown, Lilian  
Brown, W.  
Brownoff, Nick  
Buchanan, William  
Campbell, Aubrey  
Campbell, C.  
Campbell, Leonard  
Campbell, Woodrow  
Caron, Melville  
Chinn, Frank  
Clark, P.  
Clarke, P.  
Clarke, William  
Coles, W. F.  
Coley, E. C.  
Collins, Clem  
Conn, Robert  
Cormier, Fred  
Cowell, Arthur  
Crawford, Ned  
Cunningham, S.  
Curlett, Colgan  
Cuthiell, J.  
Dagg, Lorne  
Davis, R.  
Davis, T. G.  
Day, George  
Delorme, J.  
Dempster, J.  
Dervall, Felix  
Devin, P.  
Dillon, Joe  
Drake, S.  
Durling, Leslie  
Durling, Scott  
Edgson, C. V.  
Edwards, Frank  
Egge, L.  
Elliott, John  
Emsland, Allen  
Emsland, Herman  
Erickson, E. G.  
Erickson, G.

Ewasechuk, Ernest  
Flese, A.  
Flese, W.  
Forbes, Bernard  
Forbes, E.  
Forbes, J.  
Fortin, Albert  
Fortin, Glen  
Fortin, Laura  
Fortin, Omer  
Fraser, Glen  
Fricker, J.  
Gamsaiski, J.  
Gannon, Matthew  
Gardam, Clive  
Gillies, William  
Girauard, Gilbert  
Glen, Agnes  
Glen, Amy  
Glen, Elizabeth  
Glen, Charles  
Glen, Jim  
Gower, Gordon  
Gower, Ted  
Gray, Lorne  
Gray, Russell  
Groombridge, L.  
Groombridge, M.  
Groombridge, W.  
Guest, Allen  
Guest, Robert  
Guest, Walter  
Haley, G.  
Haley, W.  
Hall, E. B.  
Hammond, Alick  
Hanson, John  
Harper, A.  
Harper, L.  
Harper, R.  
Harris, R.  
Hess, W.  
Hindle, J.  
Hindle, J.

Hobart, Donald  
Hobart, J. L.  
Holtan, Frank  
Holtan, Ralph  
Horricks, Robert  
Hougland, R.  
Hughes, R. E. M.  
Humm, K.  
Hunt, George  
Hunt, Margery  
Hunter, Merle  
Hunter, Ralph  
Jaack, Leonard  
Jendrick, L.  
Jeselon, H.  
Jones, F.  
Jones, J. M.  
Jones, L. D.  
Junk, Cyrel  
Junk, Harold  
Junk, Esmond  
Junk, Esmond  
Kewko, E.  
Kickham, Larry  
Kipp, Herbert  
Kirk, C.  
Kirk, L. W.  
Kohburg, T.  
Kohluss, A. W.  
Kormendy, S.  
LaForge, Lorne  
Lane, Harry  
Langille, Allen  
Langille, Rae  
Larson, August  
Lefebvre, Rene  
Letts, John  
Lister, E.  
Lumsden, R. A.  
MacAskil, Albert  
MacIntyre, Alex  
MacIntyre, Ian  
MacIntyre, John  
MacIntyre, Penny  
Main, H. E.





# Our Roll of Honour

Makaroff, F.  
Mannen, George  
Mannen, Roy  
Marshall, A.  
Marshall, L.  
Marshall, Wesley  
Maslanka, W.  
Mayberry, Melvin  
McArthur, R. J.  
McCall, Douglas  
McCall, Keith  
McCullough, William  
McGillivray, G.  
McGregor, D'Arcy  
McLaughlan, George A.  
McLellan, Donald  
McLellan, John  
McNelly, E.  
McRae, Jim  
McRae, John G.  
McRae, Lynds  
Meiczinger, Fred  
Merryweather, Roy  
Middlestead, B.  
Middlestead, G.  
Middlestead, M. M.  
Millions, J. Vic  
Mitchell, A. J. O.  
Mitchell, H.  
Moncrief, H.  
Montpellier, Alfred  
Montpellier, Eugene  
Moore, J.  
Munn, N.  
Munsterman, Ernest  
Munsterman, James  
Nelson, A. E.  
Nichols, E.  
Nickerson, J.

Page, Lionel  
Page, Roland  
Pañter, John  
Parsons, Diesel  
Parsons, Leslie  
Peacock, Peggy  
Peavoy, E. E.  
Pierce, Barry  
Prantner, J.  
Prantner, M.  
Platt, George  
Pollard, Jack  
Pollard, Richard  
Prediger, Jack  
Pritchard, Esther  
Racine, Matthew  
Rains, G.  
Rains, Jesse  
Ralph, Manson  
Reed, James  
Reed, Kenneth  
Renaud, Paul  
Renaud, Raymond  
Rhyason, Milton  
Ringuelette, A.  
Riopel, L.  
Riopel, T.  
Ritchie, M.  
Rogers, L. A.  
Romeo, Sam  
Ronden, Clifford  
Rooney, Francis  
Round, D.  
Round, E.  
Round, F.  
Round, G.  
Round, W.  
Rowland, C.  
Rowland, W.  
Sampson, C.

Sands, Roley  
Sawka,  
Sawyer, Glen  
Schindler, A.  
Schroen, Ernest  
Seward, Earl  
Seward, Eugene  
Seward, Jack  
Seward, Robert  
Shaver, William  
Sherwood, Bert  
Shewchuk, J.  
Sjostrom, A. E.  
Smith, Bruce  
Smith, Leslie  
Smith, Ray  
Sreda, S.  
Sreda, W.  
Stanley, Barry  
Stanley, Wm. H. H.  
Stanton, Allan  
Stanton, James  
Stanton, Lewis  
Stanton, William  
Steen, Lee  
Steen, Lloyd  
Stephens, E. M.  
Stibbards, Jack  
St. Louis, E.  
Strilchuk, J.  
Strilchuk, W.  
Sutherland, Donald  
Sutton, Lynn  
Taje, Melvin  
Taylor, R.  
Tennant, Clifford  
Tennant, Robert  
Tennant, Thomas  
Thibault, Jeanne  
Torrie, Bruce

Torrie, Robert  
Toupin, K.  
Toupin, R.  
Turner, Dave  
Tubbs, William  
Vadheim, Agnes  
Vadheim, Albert  
Vadheim, Ernest  
Vadheim, Harry  
Violet, Vance  
Wagner, Grant  
Ward, J.  
Watcher, L.  
Watkins, Horace  
Watkins, Herb  
Watkins, Robert  
Watt, Alvin  
Watt, Donald  
Webber, A.  
Wener, Martin  
Westgate, Alan  
Westgate, Louis B.  
White, James P.  
Whiteman, Ray  
Wilkins, Robert  
Wilson, E. R.  
Wilson, Garnet  
Wilson, G. L.  
Wilson, H.  
Wilson, R.  
Wist, Carl  
Wodelet, John  
Wood, Allen  
Wood, Earl  
Wood, Ernest  
Workman, C.  
Workman, R.  
Wright, Robert  
Wurtz, John



# Our Roll of Honour

FOR KING AND COUNTRY — MEMBERS OF BUSBY COMMUNITY WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR ACTIVE SERVICE WITH CANADA'S FIGHTING FORCES.

ARMY: Adriel Arnold, Leonard Arnold, ? Bennett, Alexander Cormack, Joseph Cormack, William Cormack, Bartle Cox, William Dickinson, Orlando W. Elliott, Thomas Gray, Alexander Hohol, Harry Jeremy, William Jeremy, Edward Jones, James McCloy, Herbert McConaghy, Thomas McConaghy, Mark McConaghy, Mary McConaghy, Gordon McConaghy, Stanley McMillan, Fred McConaghy, Donald McTavish, Phillip H. Mead, Henry J. Munro, L. (Shorty) McDonald, James Palmer, Jerry Pipke, Norman Pretty, E. Scherkov, Steve Schuller, Arlo Spencer, John Stewart, Evelyn Thompson, Roy Thompson, Ralph Thompson and John Wilesovich.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIRFORCE: Sern Andersen, Robert Hunter, Michael Jeremy, Jerry Johnson, Alice McConaghy, Robert McConnal, Stanley Munro, Frank Ott, Richard Palmer, Archie A. Petrie, Herman Schiller, Earl Wilcox, Maurice Munro, and John Jeremy.

ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY: Russell Dickinson, Elizabeth May, Doris McConaghy, Gladys Thompson, ? Careless and John Wilkins.



Robert (Bob) McLaughlin,  
Regina Rifle Regiment.

Lloyd R. Wilson, W.W.I.



Bill Price in uniform and wife Annie in 1943.



Martin, Will and George Adkins, World War I.





Hugh Lecky (Army), his twin sister Kathleen, married name Henderson, (Air Force).



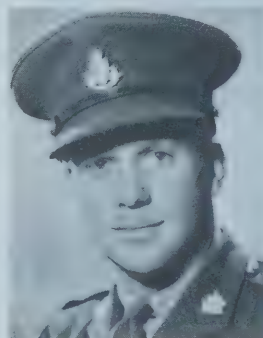
Aubrey Harry, Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, with wife, Helen Watson.



George Platt



Harold Watson, R.C.E.



Lt. R. C. Smith



Harry Wagg, W.W.I.



Elie Sabourin, #2 Company, First Depot Battalion. Enlisted at Calgary, June 3, 1918.



George Miller, World War I, volunteer, was for many years S.S.B. official at Westlock.



L to R: Terence Fitzgerald, Eldon Glebe, Andrew Townsend, Bill Lysne, Art Anhorn, waiting for the train, W.W.II.



Deisel and Leslie Parsons, RCAF 1943.



Elden Glebe, W.W.II.



George Lecky, Air Force.



Archibald Donald Gordon, Flt. Sergeant, World War II.



Simeon Lachance, 1916, Royal 22nd Regiment.



William Gordon, World War I, with daughter Jean, a highland dancer.



Leonard Gurney, 1944.



Corporal Henricksen in front of the Clyde R.N.-W.M.P. Barracks, about 1913.



Pte. Alphonse Aquin, 1917, 21st Reserve Battalion with the 49th Battalion, E Company.



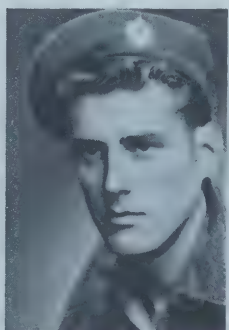
Francois Casavant, 1960. Armed Forces Reserve (Land).



William Gurney. World War I.



Frank Gordon, Canadian Army Volunteer.



Roy Hilliard, July, 1945.



Sydney Gurney 1945.

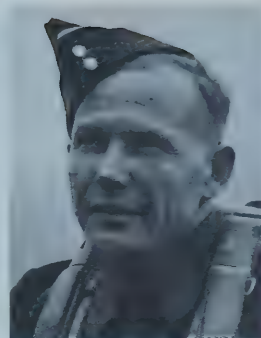




1939 — Jasper Avenue, Edmonton. Gordon Fisher and Lawrence Bennett. Years ago, Gordon's father had the cafe in Westlock.



Marjory Hunt, 1942.



Orland Bidne



Bertha, Eunice and Alice Adkins.



Jack Guest (left) and Jack Sterling, joined Canadian Airforce, 1951. Jack Sterling was 17 years of age.



Laura Fortin.



Harry Lane



Albert Paul Labelle.



Louis Rene Labelle.



Omer Fortin.



Bert Lyons.



Malcolm MacDougall.



Will Cameron.



Jack Prediger.



Herb Watkins.



World War I. Back row, L to R: John Cowley, ?, McAvoy, ?, ?. Front row: P. Copeman, ?, ?.



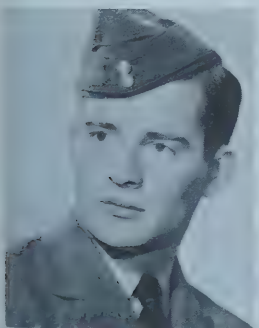
Thomas Larson.



George Kramps.



Lawrence Campbell, Bert Lyons and Art Lyons Sr.



Gerard Casavant, 1955.  
Canadian Air Force for 25  
years.



Orlando William Elliott



Jack Seward.



Bob Seward.

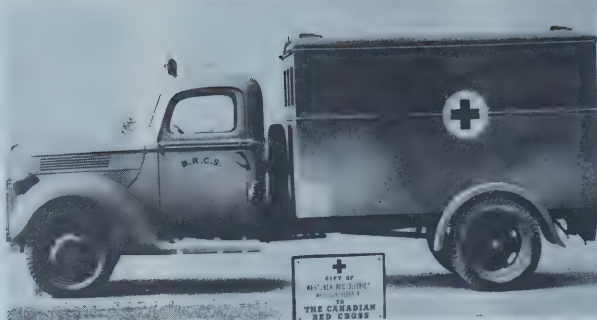


Earl and Eugene Seward.





Bill Stanley



Westlock War effort.



19th Alberta Dragoons with Westlock A Squadron in front row.



War Memorial — Westlock.



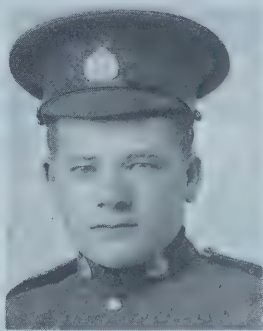
Unveiling of War Memorial at Westlock, September 5th, 1934.



Impromptu Parade of 1st World War Veterans in Westlock on VE Day.



Sgt. Esther Pritchard, 1945.



George Platt.



Picture of Fair Day, 1940. Members from S A R Westlock District. Back row: Carl Woods, John McCrae, Gable Roger Toupin, Alex McAskill, Paddy Gannon, Stevenson, August Larson, unknown, Ian McIntyre, Billy McCullough. Bottom row: Bill Sinclair, Jack Prediger, Baker, Herb Watkins, Barlow, unknown, Roy Merryweather.



Gordon B. Gower.



Glen Sawyer.



"Joe" — 1915.





# Recreation and Sports

## Baseball in Westlock

by Albert Shank

In 1949 a baseball team was organized under the management of Harvey Doherty, assisted by Wick Crone and Stuart Crone, with coach Sandford Sawyer. The team consisted of Garf Boyd, Lorne Gray, Ray Heinmarsh, Terry Kinsella, Jack Wilson, Albert Shank, Bob Comeau, Ward Armitage, Charlie Harper, Bob MacGregor, Steve Berezon, Ray Renaud, A. Warheim, and Stan Nelson. Joe Doherty was bat boy. (There were others who played, but I can't seem to remember their names, for which I apologize.)

One of the first games we played was to enter the Lloydminster Tournament. We won the first game 7 to 0, because it ended in seven innings. If a team was able to score seven runs in seven innings, and the opposing side had no score, it was legal at that time to call the game, otherwise it went nine innings. The team we were up against were the Alberta Champions from the previous year.

We lost our second game to the Kamloops Elks. I believe the score was four to three.

We played against many of the Edmonton teams; the "Outlaws," the "Oilers," etc., and I do not believe that we lost more than one game during the season, except for the playoffs. However, in 1949 we won the Provincial Championships, and again in 1950 and 1951. The pitchers were myself (Albert Shank), Jack Wilson, Bob Comeau and Fanny Flintoff.

We attracted fans galore! It was a pleasure to see two or three hundred fans come out to the games on a Sunday afternoon. The only means of support was by collections, as we could not charge at the gate at that time, but the fans were generous. We over-rode the idea of collections by selling pencils at twenty-five cents each, for admission. This brought in good revenue at that time.

We went to various tournaments over the years. The first one I remember, was in 1949, when we went to the Morinville Tournament. The first game was

against Riviere Qui Barre. I arrived at Morinville at the beginning of the third inning, when the score was seven to one against us, and the bases were loaded and nobody out. Dousiege was pitching and Steve Berezon catching. I went in to pitch. We got the first three men out with no further scores. The game was scheduled for seven innings, but we were tied with seven runs apiece at the end of the seventh, so we carried on, up to the fifteenth inning. Then, with one man on and two out, Lorne Gray homered and we won the game nine to seven. We also came out on top in the game against Horse Hills, with, I believe, a score of six to four, to win the tournament.

We played in a tournament at Mayerthorpe, if I remember correctly, where we had to play four games in two days, and we won the tournament. We only had ten players, and the pitchers were Jack Wilson, Bob Comeau, Fanny Flintoff and myself.

I recollect one tournament in Grande Prairie. I wasn't playing at that time. My pitching days were over because I had a bad shoulder. I had pitched too many successive games: — twenty-two innings one day at Morinville, and twenty-three innings the next week at Lac St. Anne. It was foolishness on my part. However, going back to Grande Prairie; our team was down in the fourth inning, four to one. The opposing team had won the first game, and some man from Kamloops (I believe it was), came up to Harvey Doherty and said "How does it feel now? You want to bet?" Harvey Doherty replied, "I'll bet you \$50 to \$10 that we're going to win." He never told any of the ball boys but we **did** win, five to four!

The public, in 1954, put up quite a "holler" about us using boys from outside the town, when there were lots of good players right in our own community, because at that time, we had two players from Barrhead, two from Morinville (or Riviere Qui Barre), one from Dapp and one from Clyde. Due to the public pressure, we formed a local team and joined the league with Barrhead, Linaria (?), Mayerthorpe and Sangudo. Unfortunately, it came to the point where we only had six fans turn out to a game.



In spite of all the hollering about supporting the local boys, there was practically no local support, so we had to give up.

After a while baseball was revived with some good local teams, and Westlock was brought back into baseball glory, which they still have.

I would like to mention and give wholehearted thanks to Harvey Doherty for his great support. He was appointed as Baseball Commissioner for several years, and bought uniforms, and often bats and balls, for our club. If it had not been for Harvey Doherty our club would have folded. Along with Harvey were Wick and Stuart Crone, who gave their support willingly, both physically and financially.

Thanks should also go to Sandford Sawyer, as first coach of the team after I came, and to Ray Wharton, who gave a lot of his time to our club.

I have enjoyed being associated with all the people in Westlock, especially the baseball fans. Westlock is a great community.

### **Chautauqua as Irma Breadner Lyons remembers**

Chautauqua week in Westlock in 1928 and 1929 was so exciting! The huge inviting khaki or tan flag-festooned marquee beckoned everyone to come within to afternoon and evening performances. I remember that we, the Breadner family went these particular years, because Dad took pictures of his family both years before we left for the afternoon performances in our new 1928 Star car, and then on the running board of our 1929 Chevrolet car.

Enterprise outside the huge tent was interesting also, because there was the little ticket stand where the ticket taker sat within and reached over the top to take your money, just as was always done to get into sideshows at the Edmonton Exhibition. Around the outside of the tent there were always little human legs and bottoms protruding, with heads on the other end that were within the marquee, peering to see whatever they could on the inside, from that earthy and



Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Betson, 1940. They lived north of Westlock.

tent-rubbing position. I keenly remember that because I wanted to do that too, but Father always vetoed that immediately I made the request.

Chautauqua was live talent and good rich, convincing acting. One year there was the production of "Jack and the Beanstalk", and Chautauqua goers who went, all seem to remember that play as though it were yesterday. For not being the age of plastics,



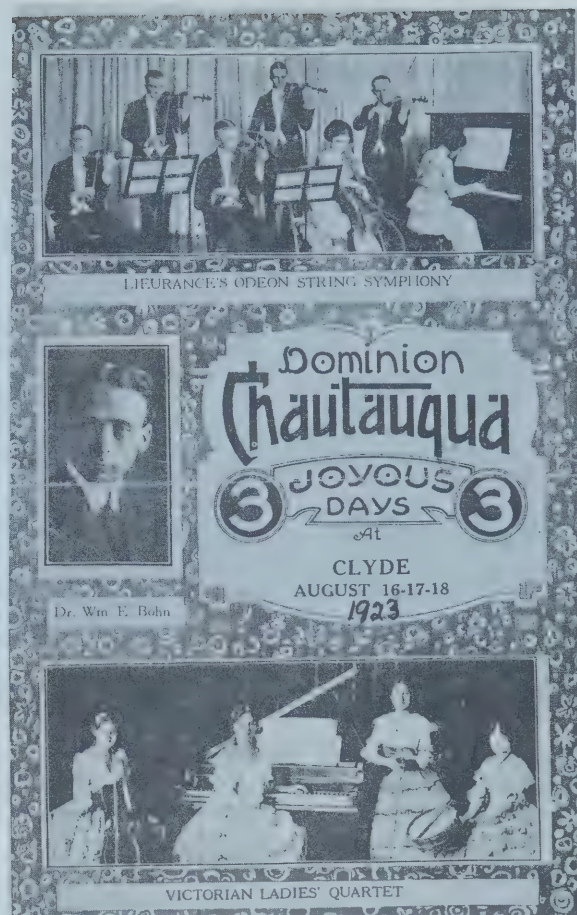
Junior Chautauqua in Westlock, 1924.

that bean stalk seemed very real. It just grew and grew perfectly realistic leaves and the stalk, which was about ten inches through, supported Jack's weight straight and true as he scrambled up to the stage ceiling and through. The next scene and stage setting came quickly and Jack was in the home of the giant. Stage props were excellent, and when the giant came on stage, his head was so huge and so grotesque! His voice boomed like a Hereford Bull in pasture as he roared, "Fe! Fi! Fo! Fum! I smell the blood of an Englishman. Be he alive or be he dead, I'll grind his bones to make my bread." He just made shivers all up and down the spine! I also remember the live white laying hen that supplied the giant eggs; that hen surely could cackle.

There were numerous skits and plays. The Barbershop Quartet was superb, and the four of them wore exciting candy coloured, wide striped tailored suits with wide brimmed hats of matching material as they energetically threw themselves, with gleeful action, into such special songs as "Sweet Adoline," "The Blue Tail Fly," (which were the rage at that time), "Red River Valley" "Cuddle up a little closer Lovey Mine," "Pretty Baby," "Peg O' My Heart," "Take Me Out To The Ball Game," "Moonlight Bay," and "Harvest Moon." Of course, the quartet never missed "By the Light of the Silvery Moon" and "In the Good Old Summertime," since it was that time of the year. The moon that swung in amongst the tree props on the stage was fascinating, too.

Then there was the beautiful blonde singer who wore a tight fitting hat that was the rage of 1928 for style, and her dress — a little bit short but so stylish, and her high heeled beige shoes. Imagine, beige colored shoes! She carried an almost transparent silk scarf of great length, in the colors of the rainbow, which she waved about her shoulders so that it appealingly resembled a rainbow in the sky as she introduced and sang the new hit song "There's a Rainbow Round My Shoulder." She sang so convincingly that she persuaded us how happy she was. Besides this invigorating song, she sang "Tip-toe Thru' the Tulips," and "Happy Days are here again" accompanied by no end of action and tripping about the stage.

We went back again and again to see each performance as Mum and Dad didn't want us to forget a single thing in the days ahead. For days after, we sang all the songs over and over again at home. Mum could always learn a song in no time by just listening to it. She still remembers "There's a Rainbow Round My Shoulder" word for word in this, her 80th year, and I doubt that she has ever seen the words or music on paper.



Poster and Chautauqua at Clyde in 1923.

Chautauqua gave the community a taste of real musical and acting culture that could not otherwise have been had except by going to Edmonton. Many of we youngsters were not to see similar entertainment again until we gathered in canteens to see travelling musical groups during the war, or live acting frolics in the cities at movie houses from time to time.

## Harvey Doherty — "Mr. Baseball" — of Westlock by D. Bidne

The Westlock History Book would scarcely seem complete without reminiscing over the contributions of one of its most honored citizens, Mr. Harvey Doherty.

Many of you will remember "Harvey Doherty Night" in 1971, when he was then welcomed as "Man of the Year". Sharing the limelight was his wife, Gladys, as both were thanked for their continuing efforts to better the community.





Westlock Baseball Club 1935. N.A.R. League Champions. L to R: R. Gardam (Scorer), F. Pamenter (Manager), A. Johnson, L. Clesson, I. Sutherland, R. Sutherland, C. W. Clark, C. Downing (President).  
 Botton row: R. Westgate, R. Smith, Don Downing, R. Taylor, W. Smith.  
 In front: A. Westgate (Mascot).

Through the years he had built up a very good garage business. But it was his concern for the quality of life in what was then the village of Westlock that led him to accept a place on the council. During his twenty-eight years of service important improvements were made, some of which were carried out during the last seven years, while he was Mayor of Westlock. The Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce presented Harvey with a "Distinguished Citizen's Award."

Harvey's love for sports was not lost when he became an enterprising business man in Westlock. Provincial Amateur Baseball had been alive previously but during the war years it sank to a very low ebb. In a profound conversation in the garage, Harvey Doherty, George Currey and Orland Bidne came to a definite decision that something should be done to revive this amateur sport. So, with Harvey in command, George Currey as Secretary-Treasurer, Orland Bidne doing his best on the team and in scouting for players, especially for pitchers, a start was made.

It was not long until Harvey became President of the Alberta Amateur Baseball Association. Also, for seventeen years, he was Commissioner of Amateur Baseball in northern Alberta.



Westlock Baseball Team, 1949. Back row, L to R: Ray Wharton (Coach), Lorne Gray, Garf Boyd, Ray Hindmarsh, Terry Kinsella, Clarence Brennies, Jack Wilson, Al Shank, Wick Crone (Manager). Front row: Swede Warehime, Ward Armitage, Delton Harper, Bob Comeau, Steve Berezon, Stan Nelson, Ray Renaud. Bat boy Joey Doherty. Missing from picture: Orland Bidne, Francis Flintoff and Bob MacGregor. Many players joined this team in the next three years, Danny McCrae, Alex Miller, Ed Gaufr, Stew Samis.

Mr. Doherty was a tremendously generous sponsor of the team, both before and after it was called the Westlock Generals.

He was the first winner of the Carling O'Keefe

Award as being the person who contributed most to amateur baseball in the Province. Following that he was appointed to the committee for the O'Keefe Awards, and he continued as an honorary voting member on that committee right up to 1977. This was the first of this particular award that was made. It is now presented annually. The Karling-O'Keefe Award was presented in a gold frame with the following impressive inscription;



Harvey Doherty, "Mr. Baseball" of Westlock.

Alberta Baseball Association

### **Harvey Doherty**

In appreciation to his valued longtime contributions to the A.B.A.

Amateur Baseball has never had a Better Friend  
1970

Again Harvey was honored by being presented with a Scroll which stated:

### **The Canadian Federation of Amateur Baseball**

In recognition of outstanding service to amateur baseball

The Canadian Federation of Amateur Baseball presents this scroll to

### **Harvey Doherty**

His dedication has contributed to the advancement of this great sport and to the physical and mental development of Canadian Youth.

Amateur Sport could not long survive without this concern and support.

Presented during Amateur Baseball Week in Canada.  
June 27-July 3, 1971.

CFAB Amateur Baseball Week Committee.  
Ron Hayter, (Co-Chairman)

The H. J. Doherty Memorial Tournament is held every year in Westlock and has been won almost every year by the Westlock Team.

The first ball for the first game was thrown out by Gladys Doherty.

The Westlock super ball diamond is one of the best to be found anywhere in Canada.

The Senior Men's team is now known as the Red Lions, who are now sponsored by Mr. John Golonowski, Mayor of Westlock.

### **Early Sports in Westlock**

The first picnic grounds and ball diamonds in the area were on the J. Edgson farm and one on the Charlie LeForge farm, one and a half miles east of there. These were used from 1906 to 1913.

The first picnic ground and ball diamond in Westlock were situated north of the railroad track on the farm then owned by Ed Wilson in 1913. June the third was the big sports day in Westlock for many years. These days were very well attended and very much enjoyed.

Clarence Campbell, well known in sports circles, once was catcher for an Edmonton team that visited Westlock in the early days.



Westlock Hockey team in 1923. Seated, L to R: Bill Watt, Johnnie Dorsey, Miller Watt, Joe Dusseault. Standing, L to R: Jimmy Hunter, Don Stanton, Dios Smith (Manager), Harold St. John and Louis Normandeau.

Wolsey Clark was manager of baseball in the twenties — Shorty Roch was known as the homerun king. Among early players were Don Stanton, Charles Reed, Simon McGregor, Bo StJohn, Miller Watt, Jim Adkins, Alex McGregor, Len Brook, Bud Kinsella, Ivan Garrison, Len Clessen, Joe Baker, Ivan Sutherland, Earl McLachlin and Don Downing. Del StJohn, son of Bo StJohn, was their mascot. By





Westlock Baseball Team in 1914. L to R: Stuart Beatt, L. Jorgenson, Clarence Hergott, Pat Donnelly, Jim Adkins, Fred McLeod, Carl Rudd, Simon McGregor and Alex McGregor.

1933, ball diamonds were on the present Fair Grounds.

Hockey history dates back to 1920 with prominent men in this sport being Dios Smith, Lorne Campbell, Bob Jorgenson, and Leo Travers, who made the first hockey ice near where the curling rink now is.

Other hockey enthusiasts were Bo St John, Don Stanton, Vern St John, Happy Aldridge, Ivan Garrison, Simon McGregor, Allan Nielson, Emmett Berry, Jim Hunter, W. Watt, Jack Dorsey, Miller Watt, Joe Dusseault and Louie Normandeau.

Del St John, son of Jean and Bo St John, is now in Europe. Del followed his dad as a good hockey player, and coach in two World Champion Games while living in Germany. One was in Colorado Springs, U.S.A., 1960-61. The other was in Sweden, 1962-63. The first ladies hockey team (1925-26) was coached by Bo St John. There were two ladies' teams — married and singles — played on an open air rink in the town centre where Field's Store is today.

## How Golf Started in Westlock

by Ted Leake

It was in the depths of the depression, 1933 or 1934, on a Sunday afternoon, and I was on the lawn knocking a golf ball with a putter.

A neighbor, Mr. Bert French, came over, tried his hand and liked doing it so much, he suggested we go to the Fair Grounds and lay out a hole or two.

The upshot was, we made up nine holes, and soon we had numerous players, as Mr. Renaud had put in a stock of clubs.

The overcrowding became so bad we started looking for a place for a golf course and came up with the eighty acres where the golf course is today.

Father Rooney knew the owner, Mrs. Bruder, who lived in Ontario. He wrote to her asking whether she would be willing to sell the place and her answer was that she would sell it for \$400.00. Hardly anyone had any money but we managed to raise that amount and I laid out the nine holes.

The golfing enthusiasts increased rapidly. The purchased land was the West half of the S. W. 2 — 60 — 27 — West of the Fourth Meridian. Enraptured with the initial happiness, the venture marched on and the subsequent development was made possible by the co-operation for which the progressive community was then well known.

Following a master sketch made by Carl Ranch, the Golf Club Executive elected in 1933 planned out the nine hole course. Among the men who freely gave of their time were Ted Leake, Bert French, Ivan and Bob Sutherland, D. M. Torrie, Dr. Kickham, Father Rooney, G. Walker, H. Fraser, Fred Pameter, George Miller, Don Stanton, Dr. Sands and Archie Hollingshead. The war years slowed the work for awhile, but later it was developed into one of the finest golf courses in the Province.

## **"Horseshoes"**

by Bill McLean

Horseshoes in Westlock in the past was more or less a sporadic effort. This excellent game, sometimes called "Barnyard Golf", was lacking a good permanent location. Sometimes it was played beside the old IGA Store, other times beside the old curling rink or near the Old Timer's Cabin. It always attracted its share of players and interested spectators.

It was felt that horseshoes should have a permanent location so some enthusiasts, spear-headed by Dave Cross, selected the present site beside the Boy Scouts Hall in Mountie Park. With the help of Monsignor Rooney, the site met with the approval of the "powers that be". Next, Dave Cross, Art Stanton and Art Saunders plus Bill McLean from the Alberta Wheat Pool prepared an application for a grant. This was approved and with the help of local business men Rex Dawson, Bredo Transit Mix, Ernie Hunt for pipe and welding, and Doug McIntosh Trucking soon provided the matching work required for the grant. Others helped with the work necessary to complete the project.

Other communities have completed good horseshoe facilities, too, so it is hoped good competitions will be arranged. Some enthusiasts even entertain the idea of holding the Provincial Horseshoe Pitching

Championships in Westlock some time in the near future. Some of the local players have received recognition already; e.g. Larry Griffith won the Alberta Championship in 1982 and placed favourably at the Canadian Championship in Victoria. Also Gordon Brown won first in the Alberta B Championship in 1982. It is gratifying to see the talent this sport has already produced and it is hoped will go on to even greater achievements.

## **The Westlock Figure Skating Club**

Figure skating in Westlock has been an amateur activity for many years but it was not until 1970 that it actually became officially recognized. This was when the local club joined the Canadian Figure Skating Association. Miss Sandy Lawrence was instructor and Kay Malmas, President. The Westlock Kinsmen Club had been operating the Ice Carnival for ten years, but in 1972 they turned over the organization and presentation of the show to the Westlock Figure Skating Club, which had become large enough to handle the operation on its own.

Seventy-six skaters took part in the Carnival, including a couple from Barrhead and a pair from the Royal Glenora Club in Edmonton.

The Ice Carnival has since become an annual event, held in the Westlock Arena.



Westlock Figure Skating Club, March 7, 1970.





Miss Bonnie Wold, representing the Westlock Minor Hockey Association was 1972 Queen for the first Westlock Figure Skating Club Ice Show. She was crowned by the 1971 Queen, Christine Johnson.



Eleven Figure Skaters entered the Northern Alberta Subsectional Figure Skating Competition at Lloydminster, Alberta, December 4 and 5, 1971. Back row, L to R: Cheryl Czuj (Brown), Debbie Dyer, Lynne Arth (Brown), Christine Johnson (Sharek), Barbara Malmas (Danelesko), Tina Horton. Front row: Delores Bryk (Poloway), Valerie Smart, Patricia Mellor, Lesly McIntosh, Betty Ann VanIreland.



The medal winners of skaters who entered the Northern Alberta Subsectional Figure Skating Competition, Dec. 2, 1972 at Leduc. Barbara Malmas, Patricia Mellor, Sandra Czuj, Laurel Bishop, Cathy Czuj, Wayne Cochrane, Betty VanIreland, Delores Bryk, Cecile Gray.



Gold Medal Junior Pairs winners Barbara Malmas and Debbie Dyer. Dec. 2, 1972.

### Westlock Girls Softball Team by Edith Jenson

It was the year that Jack McCathey worked for Harvey Doherty and he coached the Westlock Girls Softball Team. He entered us in the finals to be played at Alcomdale.

He was unable to go, as he played with the senior

ball team but got “Windy Bill” who worked for Ray Hide, to take us and coach that day.

We had to play three games and needless to say, we were pretty tired but Windy Bill kept us all fired up, talking all the time. Lucille Munsterman was pitching and doing a wonderful job. On the last game, when a fast grounder came out to third base, Ora Boyd picked it up so slick and threw it to me. I had to stretch to get it, but it meant the ball game, so I reached for it, ripping my slacks in the process! However, we won the game and the other girls ran over and tore the rest of my slacks after that. We had won the Cup! Such rejoicing.

We phoned home to Westlock to tell them we were staying for the dance, although the cup was presented to us right on the ball diamond. It was on display in the Westlock Hotel for a long time, and I don’t know where it is now.

The line-up for that day was:

Pitcher — Lucille Munsterman  
Short stop — Amy Beatt  
Second base — Lil Brown  
Third base — Ora Boyd  
First Base — Edith Smith  
Catchers — Pat and Bella Boyd

Fielders — Aileen Watt, Evelyn Skody, Esther Beatt, Dora Gross.

Dora Gross was our handy gal — sewing slacks and such. We’ll all remember that day.

## 25th Anniversary of the Westlock Hockey Team

This historic event gathered together for the last time most of the participants and close supporters of Westlock’s first hockey teams. The event was organized by their manager and referee, Dios Smith, and held in the Westlock Hotel on April 2nd, 1948. Mayor Cliff Fender welcomed the group, Miss Madge Smith sang two solos, one in French to the delight of Joe Dusseault and Louis Normandeau. There were remarks by Bob Jorgenson, entertainment by Scottie Avison, songs by the male Quartet of Don Downing, “Mac” McCullough, Dick Ponting, and George Currey, a reading by Edgar Wood, and an address by Louis Normandeau. Miller Watt, one of the remaining few of the original team, has written this report of these most memorable hockey days, dated Penticton, B.C., March 24, 1983.

“Between fifty and sixty years ago there was one of the early hockey teams in Westlock, on which I



Banquet guests at the 25th Anniversary of the Westlock Hockey Team held in the Westlock Hotel April 2nd, 1948. Seated, L to R: Wolsey Clark, Jack Wodelet, Allan Neilson, Frank Merryweather, Scotty McLeod, Reg Little, Emmet Berry, Cliff Fender, Joe Baker, Dios Smith, Bob Jorgenson, Louis Normandeau, Edgar Wood, Art Bentley, S. W. Thompson, Roman Perrin, George Jamieson, Jim Good, Bert French, Bill Adkins, Archie McEwen, Jim Algeo (reporter). Standing: L to R: Bob Montgomery, Andy Brooks, Don Stuart, Scotty Avison, Bill Montgomery, Joe Dusseault, Ewart Stutchbury, Don Downing, Jimmy Hunter, Miller Watt, A. D. McLeod, Jack McCrae, Jack Roy, Dick Ponting, Charlie Roulston, Mac McCullough, Lorne Campbell, Graham Walker. Harold St. John was present but not in the picture.



was one of the players. I think there now may be only three other members of these teams alive, Don Stanton in Ontario, my brother Wm. Watt now living in Strathmore, Alta and Joe Baker, a Westlock old-timer, still near Westlock. I will try to give a little information about the team from 1923 to 1933, but I expect that I will miss out on some things which I should remember about.

In 1922 there was a building on the Fair grounds at Westlock which may have been used for fair purposes but was used for skating some in the winter. This building was only fifty feet long and fifty feet wide and was hardly long enough for playing hockey on.

But in the summer of 1923, a number of interested people in Westlock, built another fifty feet on the length of the building and that was our rink for a number of years, perhaps about 15 or 20.

It would be impossible for me to mention all the people around who were interested in our hockey team, but there was one who, in particular I thought we could not have gotten along without, that being Dios Smith, who generally was the manager, coach, and referee and anything else that was required in a country hockey team.

Through him and other friends, arrangements were made for teams to come out to Westlock from Edmonton on Saturday nights, and because our rink was shorter than many of the rinks in Edmonton on which so many of these teams played, perhaps we had a certain amount of advantage being accustomed to the shorter rink, and perhaps thereby we may have won more games than we lost.

Over the years we also had games with teams from towns around the country, whether on their ice or ours. For a few years Legal had a very good team, and we had many good games with them, both winning and losing some, but mostly good fellowship between us.

We went to Athabasca a number of times and also had them come to Westlock, and I well remember one fairly cool night we went up there and when we got there found the temperature about 20 degrees colder than at home. I think that they gave us a hard time on the ice, perhaps because they were more accustomed to open ice than we were, we being able to play on a closed in rink and in the balmy weather of Westlock. I guess we must have lost that game and blamed it on the cold, anyway we always seemed to enjoy going to other town's rinks and people.

I do not seem to remember our team playing in Barrhead, perhaps because they may not have had a rink yet while I was yet playing. But I do remember that for one winter we had Hank Wells from Barrhead playing with us sometimes, and considered him a

good player, so perhaps I may be mixed up in my memory.

We also met the Clyde team a few times, and I remember at least on one occasion playing them on their own rink, and Father Sullivan and my brother Wm. who was living in Clyde at the time, giving me more than I was able to handle in the goal, but perhaps the next night it would go the other way.

It may seem strange, but sometimes a loss suffered, is better remembered than a win. I so well remember a game we played on the South side rink against a team called Gainors, it having some of the players we had played against in Westlock, and it was a complete large embarrassment to me, as I certainly was not playing my best, and I had more goals scored against me than I ever had had before.

But I feel that the most interesting trips as a team was on two occasions, to Grande Prairie, first I think in 1925, to play just two games with Grande Prairie only, as there was no other teams there. On that trip we were treated most royally, being located in the best hotel, and in very comfortable rooms, but my recollection is that we did not treat them very good in return, because I am almost certain that we won both games on that occasion and it was good to have been there.

On the second trip, which I believe was in 1929 or 1930, we were invited to take part in a hockey tournament I think after the first of the new year; at which there was to be six teams taking part: Westlock; Legal; Grande Prairie (second team); the Hythe team; the Grande Prairie first team; and one other from somewhere up in that country, I am not sure, just what town. This time because there were going to be so many hockey players, and visitors in the town, they had to put us up in an unused Immigration Hall, and there were a number of other hockey players also accommodated there, and we were alright as far as being comfortable was concerned, and I just forget what we did for eats.

Well on the trip up there on the train, as I recall it, the Legal team travelled with us as well as a number of our supporters. So with so many people, mostly young hockey players, as well as a few supporters; naturally a certain amount of horse-play was almost bound to be going on and in some unaccountable manner, when the train stopped at Slave Lake, one of our supporters, who may have had just a little too much raspberry-vinegar, got off the train supposedly to see a friend who would be there, and after about fifteen minutes after the train started up again we discovered that our good friend had failed to get back on the train, so we had one supporter less from there on.

The first game we played was against the Grande

Prairie second team and was not so easy for us. They were not supposed to be nearly as good as the other G.P. team, but in the first half of the game they scored more goals than we did, and it was only by a great effort on the part of our offensive boys that we were able to take the game in the final end.

Our second game was against the Legal team, who were very fortunate to defeat Hythe in their first game, a very strong team. We had played Legal before in our own area, and we therefore knew some of their strengths and failings; so our boys were going very well and we were able to win that game and thus were in line for the final game, against the Grande Prairie number one team.

This game was scheduled for the same evening when we were supposed to take the train for home about eight o'clock, and it seemed to Dios Smith that we might not be able to finish in time for that, so after considerable trouble on the part of several people of Grande Prairie, arrangements were made with the train crew to delay for a time for us to finish the game. (If necessary to allow us to be on.) Well everything worked out alright, we were fortunate enough that we were able to win the game without overtime, and got on the train in time, they having waited a considerable time for us. We had every reason to consider the trip a success for us again.

It was not too long after that, as the years were beginning to add unto me, that I had to hang up my skates, and I think that I can remember that Bob Sutherland took over the goal tending chores for the Westlock team which soon became composed of a younger generation rather than most of those who had been playing for perhaps too many years.

I have not mentioned the names of many of those who played on those early Westlock teams, because my memory is getting faulty and would almost certainly miss out on some of the names of some of the boys who played their parts so well, and whom I am happy to have been associated with on Westlock's teams."

One of Westlock's greatest hockey fans over the years has been Dick Adkins. Dick has written about hockey in the twenties and this account appeared in the Westlock News February 17, 1960:

"I would like to bring back memories of a hockey team Westlock had in the late twenties. Of course in all games there are men behind the men behind the gun.

I would like to mention three men that played a great part in the game: Mr. Wolsey Clark, he kept the cafe, he was the man who furnished the hay and the oats for the boys; our time keeper was Graham Walker, it was Graham that told us Westlock was not a large enough town to support a curling rink and a

hockey team too. He was right. Then there was D. C. Smith our faithful referee. All the games he worked in he only called one bad play.

I would like to mention three loyal supporters of our game who have moved away. Herb Alton, Jack Illington and Fred Westgate. Now there are some who have passed on but not forgotten, again I will mention three: Roy Guest, Elmer Alton and Jack McRae. Jack was our rink manager, and with the weather man's help we always had the best of ice.

Now hockey was played differently in those days, there was no forward passing or pulling the puck up with the skate. There were relief players, they were called subs. Their names were Leonard Hergott, Bill Watt, Bill Adkins, Archie McEwen and Alex Tennant.

One regular player on the team who was not with the club the last couple of years they played to whom I cannot give enough credit, Hank Wells from Belevedere, a good hockey player and a real gentleman.

Now us teenagers had a teenage hot stove league, which took place in the south east corner of our little ice palace.

That is where all the games were played and played over and over again. The N.H.L took it over after our hockey team broke up. Our regular team consisted of Goal Miller Watt, Defence Jimmy Hunter and Bill Montgomery forwards Don Stanton, Joe Dusseault, Centre, Bo. St. John.

It is hard to say much about a goal tender but our boy had the quickness of a cat. If he made a mistake it was nailed up on the wall. I saw Miller get the frozen puck on the side of the face one night. I am sure it would have dropped a thousand pound steer, but Miller was soon back between the gas pipes.

Now there was Jim Hunter, a real defence man. Jim used to get his stick a little high once in awhile, but Dios would give him two minutes. He would come out gentleman Jim with that usual smile. Jim is the only regular who has passed away. Now Bill was a real partner with Jim, I can still hear the visitors grunt when they plowed into big Bill. The defence stayed pretty close to the goal in the days I am referring to. Our forwards were the attackers, they were the goal getters.

Don Stanton was as smooth a skater as you will find anywhere. Don reminded me of a pacing horse coming down a racetrack and working so easy yet so speedy. He did not seem to need any energy.

One night a visiting player, a little on the rough side bumped into Don on more than one occasion. Don stopped and pointed his finger at this player to show him he was not interested in this rough play, and I'll be darned if Dios didn't go and give Don a



penalty, the awful thing was it was the only penalty we ever saw handed out to the gentleman of our hockey rink.

Joe Dusseault was Don's partner, Joe could handle a hockey stick better than most men can handle a billiard cue, I know he could shoot straighter with that stick than I could with a gun. Many a time I have seen him billiard the puck off the goalie's skate or pads. One time Joe was going down the ice and when he got to the centre of the rink some young lad threw a stray puck on the ice which landed right in front of Joe. Without any effort Joe lifted it right into the timekeeper's hand, and carried right on with the puck that was in the game, the referee did not see this, he did it so quick. It was the talk of our hot stovers that Joe had played professional hockey and he could be arrested any time for playing amateur again, how true, I don't know.

Now last but by no means least our own Bo St. John. I think that all teenagers' prayers would be answered if they could just play hockey like Bo. He had a terrific shot, he did not golf it like they do now, he seemed to shoot with his wrists. He sure made fire side news one night when he put the puck through the arena wall. I'll never forget, Bo was coming down

the ice with the strength and speed of a moose, when fancy pants who Don got a penalty over tried to stop Bo by putting his knee in front of him right close to the boards. Bo turned a complete somersault and when he was going over, his skate blade cut this player's face. It was purely an accident, but boy we were even with that guy. But we never did get even with Dios.

The boys played mostly Edmonton teams the last year they played, they won twelve straight without a loss and it took an all-star team from the city to beat them. Some of the all-star team turned pro, the following season so our boys were good.

One regret I have is that our good friend Lindy was not with us those days, that is if Lindy was as flash happy those days as he is now. What I would not give to see some of those games played over. And see the camera flashed on the supporters. I can see them all so happy looking, I can see Fern and Simon McGregor, Ernie Stanton, Shorty Rock, Bob Dyer and many many others. I don't know what our supporters would have thought if our boys had gotten into a free-for-all like we see on TV. I am sure they would have felt ashamed and would not want to talk about it. We had a hockey-loving team."

## Clyde Sports



Clyde Baseball Team — 1926. From L to R: Gordon Thurston, Emmett Gosche, ?, Johnny Gosche (Pitcher), Alphonse Cour-schene, Melvin Hills, Melford Hills, George Coley, Leslie Saisbury, Ross Ego, (crouching) Manager A. K. Olive.



Clyde Baseball Team, about 1912.



Clyde Football Team, 1908.



Clyde Girls' Basketball Team 1923. Standing, L to R: Elsie Burdick, Madeline Nickerson, Hardy Aldridge, Kathleen Olsen, Alice Nelson. Seated: Ellen Nelson, Frances Gosche and Marion Bishop.



Elsie and Ruth Burdick on the Clyde tennis court, 1928.



Clyde Baseball Team, June 16, 1916. L to R: Stanley Wortman, "Coke" Jacquith, "Finny" Williams, Johnny Gosche, Jim Fix ?, Gordon Thurston (Cap on), Sam Wortman, Roy Graham ?, Tom Donelly.



Clyde Curling team, 1958. W. Lux, R. Hallet, A. Munn, P. Destruel.





Clyde football team.

## Westlock Sports



Westlock Nu-Way Basketball Club. Back row: Mary Birks, Gladys, Johnston, Ivan Sutherland (coach), Johnny Weatherick (manager), Peggy Loree, Esther Beatt. Front row: Beryl Bristow, Jeanne St. John, and Del (mascot), Alberta Armitage, Jean Beatt.



Dick Staples' basketball team, 1952.



Baseball on Sunday, 1923.



Westlock Baseball Team at Barrhead, Alberta, July 1st, 1949.



The Provincials. Back row: Betty Allen, Laura Noel, Greta Shaver, Janet Baxandall, Audrey Innis, Etta Wilcox, Gladys Guest. Front row: Coach Buzz Miller, Betty Rimmer, Florence Rimmer, Delph Rimmer, ?, Melba Langille, Barbara Brabens, Coach Jerry Anderson.



Westlock Hockey Club 1924 — 45 winners of Victory League No. 22. Back row: R. M. Allan, Fwd; D. Fraser, Def; P. Baxandall, Def; D. Sutherland, Def; S. Sands, Fwd. Centre row: R. Perrin, Manager; B. Brooks, Fwd; L. Boyd, Fwd; E. Pearce, Fwd; J. Bricker, Fwd; Capt. G. W. Graves, Coach. Front row: B. Peter, Stk. boy; A. Holt, Goal; D. C. Fender, Pres; R. Mills, Goal; D. St. John, Mascot. Not included in picture: J. McLaughlin, Fwd; and J. Brown, Fwd.



The first Ladies Basketball Team about 1912. Kneeling at back: Lillian Stanley and Jessie Leake (L to R). Seated, L to R: lone Guest, Mabel Warren, Louise Leake, Ray Smith (Coach), May Adkins, Vernon Leake, Achsa Bell and Jessie Workman.



Westlock Basketball Team 1932. Coach: Ivan Sutherland. L to R: Jean St. John, Beryl Bristow, Kathleen Bruder, Peggy Loree. Crouching: K. Olsen (MacLachlan), Gladys Johnson (Wood).





Westlock Bowl. Maisie Platt, Lois and Lorne Gray. In front: Don Foster.



Westlock Hockey team — Constable Allen — Coach.



L. to R.: Ann O'Brien and Linda O'Brien daughters of Leo and Doreen O'Brien. Picture taken about 1966 following the Westlock Parade.



# Family Histories

## **Forrest Adair**

**written by Mary Adair**

Forrest enlisted in the 202 Battalion in 1914 and after two or three months training in Sarcee Camp was sent overseas. From there he was transferred to the 10th Battalion. One evening, where a large number of soldiers were settled for the night, in a large dug out, two men came to the door and asked if there was room for two more men and Forrest said there was room near him for two more. They asked where he was from and Forrest said Westlock, and Bill Robins said that that was where he was from and Pat Belly said that he was from Dapp. Forrest asked if Bill had any sisters and Bill said "Yes, lots of them." So Forrest said if he ever got home, he would go after one, which he did, when he married Mary Robins in November, 1920. They lived on a farm at Sunniebend. The first year Forrest worked on the wooden bridge across the river and at that time Stan Jorgenson and Helmer Hannah built the Sunniebend school and boarded at Forrest and Mary's home. From then on the teachers all boarded at their home but the first one, Miss Bell, stayed at Mrs. Grasby's. Twenty six of them boarded at Forrest and Mary's. Gladys Holmes, Eleanor Crough, Mrs. Anderson, Miss McLeod, Miss Rawleigh, Miss Hownick, Miss Paton, Miss Henley, Mr. Rice, Vera Broughton, Blake Letts, Mr. Brakonberry, Mrs. Bob Crone, Audrey Jorgenson, Irene Shandro, Mrs. Ness, Harold Wortman, Miss Morrison, Miss Lilly Duke, Gladys Olson, Cleo Colben, Maureen Landvatter, David Smith, Sally Smart, Mrs. Dan Bauer.

Forrest passed away very suddenly at a political meeting in Westlock Hall on May 8, 1967. Mary rented the farm and moved to Westlock and lives in the Lored Apartments. Mary Adair passed away November 19, 1982.

## **From England to the Wabash**

**submitted by Maisie Platt, as told by her Mother, Mrs. Louise Sherwin and her sister, Mrs. Lois Grant**

It was in the year 1905 that my parents, with my two younger sisters, brother George and myself, left our home in Oxfordshire, England, to make a home for ourselves in Canada. Also in the party were my elder brother, Alfred, his wife and their children; Jim and Bill Adkins and Barbara, now Mrs. James Pollard. Three of my brothers were already in Vancouver with my maternal grandfather, the latter having gone there before the railroad went through. Four sisters remained in England. Along with us were Edwin and Arthur Stanley, but they remained in Manitoba for a year to get an insight into farming the Canadian way.

We sailed on the "Victorian" on March 23rd, arriving in Halifax on April 1st and in Strathcona on April 8th during a blizzard! It was a dreary journey across Canada at that time. At Winnipeg we were detained 18 hours, and their station at that time was a large open shed with one small room for ladies and children. People of every nationality were there that day. I think my mother was rather nervous as it was a strange experience for us to meet with so many people from other lands, all speaking in strange languages. Dr. McNeil, from the Baptist Church came and told us that the same God who had watched over us in our old home would take care of us here.

We were met by Mr. McIntyre, the Immigration Officer at the Strathcona Depot, and he persuaded us to stay there and get rested and see how we liked Strathcona. Horse busses met the train at that time to pick up anyone going to Edmonton, N.W.T. There was a lot of rivalry between the two towns at that time.

The question arose as to where we could stay. Mr.



McIntyre informed us that there was no room at the hotels and in any case they would be too expensive for a family of eleven, and he did not know of a house anywhere, so he went with us to the Immigration Hall. The caretakers were very clean and nice people. They gave us one side of the Hall to ourselves. We were a very homesick family, but we at least had a roof over our heads, although it was a far cry from the home we had left behind.

On the following Saturday I was at the Strathcona Depot when the train came in and the Kinsella family got off. Mrs. Kinsella asked me if I knew of a place where they could stay. I told them of our experience, and they asked me if I would show them the way to the Hall. They were with us whilst our houses were being built. We were there six weeks, as it took quite a while to build a house large enough for a family the size of ours.

Mr. Kinsella and my older brother looked for land east, west, south and north, and decided on the Pembina District. My Father and brother took Mr. Kinsella's advice as he knew more about farm land than they did.

Our first year in Strathcona was not a pleasant time. Our house wasn't finished, and scarlet fever overtook us. We were quarantined for ten weeks. My two younger sisters had had sense enough to have it amid the comforts of our homeland, but my niece, nephew, George and myself were quite ill with it that summer amongst flies, mosquitoes, etc. My Grandfather came to visit us, which cheered us a lot, and he was a big help in finishing the house, making screens for the windows and so on, and making things more comfortable for us generally.

We enjoyed the Edmonton Fair, which was held down by the old Fort. We crossed by ferry, and saw the Indians who were there in large numbers in their colorful dresses. They received their pay at that time. We attended their "Pow-wow" in the evening.

The big event of that year was Inauguration Day, on Sept. 11th, when Alberta became a Province. Before that day, we lived in the North-west Territories. If I remember correctly, Earl Grey was Governor-General then and Sir Wilfred Laurier was the Prime Minister. Both were in attendance at the celebration. I did not take any part as I had not regained my strength from the bout with scarlet fever. It was a long drawn out illness in those days, but my sisters, May and Lois, now Mrs. McDougall and Mrs. Grant, were in the parade, with other members from their school, "King Edward."

That winter was a mild one. Dad and my elder brother spent some time in this Pembina District getting out logs for our homestead house. Two of my brothers from B.C. joined us, also Arthur Stanley,

and all took up homesteads. In the spring, three of my sisters arrived from England, bringing with them a few of the treasures we had left behind. We began to feel we were a family again, and also to enjoy our home. My brother and his wife and family moved to their homestead that year, to the farm where Betty and Dick Adkins now live. He ran the first Post Office and small store, then known as Swallowhurst. The Kinsellas also moved out that year, and in the spring, made a trip to town, and persuaded us to come out, too, if only for the summer months. Those months lasted as long as our parental home existed!

Mr. George Renton was hired to bring us out. He, his brother; Jim Dewas; Harold Thompson; Joe Brickman; the Kinsellas and members of our family, making twelve in all, set out with four teams and wagons, and two lead horses, on July 12th from Edmonton. After loading up, the cavalcade started the long trek north, and by night we found ourselves on the St. Albert Trail. We camped in an old abandoned log house. When this place was first suggested, I thought it was a joke, but soon found out otherwise. There were not many houses on the old trails that could house twelve extra people! The next night we got as far as where the new Riopel School stands. The old school was locked but there was a brand new barn with stalls, which seemed a luxury after the previous night. The **Roads**. . .? Well, there just weren't any, and the next day we made only six miles, continually getting stuck in mud holes and having to put four horses on one load, which we would pull so far and then go back for the next one.

That night we reached the McKewon home. At that time they lived somewhere on the old Trail. Mrs. McKewon seemed very pleased to see us, and gave us supper, nice clean beds for the ladies, and breakfast. All she asked in return was for one of us girls for her son. That was the fee everywhere we called, as girls were really scarce.

The next day was much the same; mud, heat and mosquitoes! but that evening we arrived at my brother's place on the baseline, as it was called then. At that time it was only a line cut through the bush but now it is a busy highway. We spent the night there, and in the morning he took us the last few miles to our home on the Wabash. Looking back on the trip, we had a lot of fun, especially when camping for meals. We made a lot of friends, and knew almost every family between here and Edmonton.

We were thrilled with our big, new home. The Wabash was very high in those days, and a nice waterfall was visible from our kitchen-living room window. Wild strawberries were in abundance on the creekbank, and there were mushrooms enough for our first dinner. We had brought a cow from Edmon-

ton, so we had lots of cream. We also had a Jersey heifer which Mr. Rutherford, our first Premier, gave to my sister, Eunice. We called her "Premmy".

Bear steak was on the menu for the next day, from a huge cinnamon bear shot on the Renton Farm. It sure smelled good!

That year, my brothers helped build the Riverdale School and Mr. Ben Allen's House, and the question of a school arose for Swallowhurst. By starting one child, very much under age, there were ten in number; four from the Alton home, four of my brothers, one girl from the south, and my youngest sister. A school was granted, and it, too, was built by my brothers, across from the Harvey Patterson farm, and it remained there until it was moved to Westlock. Church services were started, and were held in homes, until the Hazel Bluff Church was built in 1909.

### Alfred Adkins

Alf Adkins came to Canada from England in 1905. He and his wife, Annie, were the postmasters of the Swallowhurst Post Office till 1916. It was closed that year and mail came to Westlock. The Post Office was on the Adkins' homestead, one and a half



Alf Adkins before he sailed for Canada in 1905.

miles west of the railway crossing, beside what is now Highway 18.

The Adkins also had a small general store.



Alice Adkins with granddaughter Maisie Platt.

### The Adkins Family by Dick Adkins

The Adkins family arrived in Edmonton, Alberta in March of 1905, coming from England in the hope of finding a home in Canada. Little did they know the hardships that lay ahead for many years before their dreams could come true. It would be impossible for an inexperienced farmer to get anywhere today under the same circumstances. Most of the settlers came in with very little money and only the bare necessities for their daily living. Those that came from the cities and large towns in the old country knew nothing about the care of livestock, let alone the clearing and breaking of forested land. If those poor beasts of burden could have been cared for and fed the way we feed our livestock today, they could have done twice the work. The pioneers did not have the feed to give to their teams, whether horses or oxen, although oxen could rustle for themselves to some extent. The settlers had to train themselves how to use an axe, and how to build with logs.



It took three days to come to Westlock from Edmonton. Just imagine leaving Edmonton in the morning, camping somewhere along the trail for dinner and supper, and sleeping on the ground under the wagon! The next morning when one got up, the team had to be fed, breakfast made and another day on the trail started, making a stop for dinner and supper again, and finally settling down for another night in the open. Possibly eight or nine meals would have to be eaten along the way and two or three nights spent under the wagon, which was the only protection from the weather. There was only the hoot of owls or the lonely cry of the coyote for company. It is regrettable that the early pioneers could not have lived for another twenty years, so that they could have enjoyed the comforts and amenities that we have today, which they by their hard work and sacrifices made possible for us. They could have enjoyed T.V., good roads to drive on, comfortable vehicles to ride in and modern houses to live in. It is sad, but true, the life span of man was too short for the people who homesteaded during the years 1903 to 1906, to reap the harvest they desired.

My Father and Mother, with four children, arrived on the homestead in our district in April of 1906. My Dad had chosen the quarter section known as NW 36, Township 59, Range 27, West of the Fourth Meridian. The man who homesteaded the farm, east of Eastglen, told my Dad he was foolish to file on that wet hole. I am glad he never took that man's advice. Dad filed in October of 1905, and built a small shack and barn that Fall, so that his family could come out in April. He had purchased three oxen from Johnnie Zaczkowski, and these were his only means of transportation. He had also purchased a high-wheel wagon gear, which was built by the Studebaker Co., who later built cars.

After the family was moved onto the homestead, an addition was built onto the small house. This was two storeys and was built of logs. The first part that had been built was used as a store for supplies for the pioneers, such as flour, sugar, soap, dried prunes ("C P R Strawberries"), and some hardware and harness. The Government chose the Adkins' homestead for a Post Office, and also the Government Telephone pay station. The Post Office was named Swallowhurst Post Office, when the village of Westlock came on the map in 1914 with the coming of the railroad. In 1916 the Swallowhurst Post Office was closed and the Westlock Post Office opened. The little supply store was no longer needed. Mrs. Alf Adkins looked after the store and Post Office while it was in operation, while Alf Adkins freighted from Edmonton to his homestead. He not only brought supplies to the store, he moved many families, with their belongings, into

the district. He would leave on Monday morning for Edmonton, travelling over the winding bush trails, and would usually arrive home with the load on Saturday. Sometimes he would have a pretty good growth of whiskers as it was hard to shave, out under the pale blue sky with a straight (cut-throat) razor! There were two kinds of tobacco on the shelves of the little store, McDonalds cut plug for smoking and McDonalds plug for chewing. It was impossible to haul canned goods from Edmonton in the wintertime because of freezing. All fruit was dried, which is now termed "dehydrated". I can't recall the use of tailor-made cigarettes much before World War I. Most men rolled their own.

The period from 1905 to 1920 was a time of real hardship for man and beast. Feed and water for the livestock were real problems. The neighbors and ourselves had to chase the cattle down to the Wabash Creek in the winter time to water them. My Dad dug seven or eight wells by hand of course, twenty feet was about as deep as one could dig by hand. He dug them in many different places, always hoping he might find a good flow of water. In 1919, a man by the name of Joe Hughes brought a well-drilling rig into the district, and drilled wells for many of the farmers. He found water on our place at about one hundred and twenty-feet, so our water problem was solved. As we got more land broken and under cultivation, our feed supply was remedied.

I do not know how we would have existed if there had not been an abundance of Prairie Chickens, Partridges and rabbits around at that time. My Mother used to make a stew using rabbit meat and dumpings, which to us children, was a meal alone.

Before the coming of the Tractors, clearing and breaking land was a slow, hard project. If we cleared and broke ten acres in a year, we felt well satisfied. When the war broke out in 1914 there was a real setback to farm improvement. All the young men left to join the armed forces, and many of the married men went, too, leaving a shortage of help. The homesteads went unimproved for four years.

The lack of capital was one of the biggest drawbacks in the early days, both to my parents and many, many others. They wanted to change from oxen to horses, but the big cartage companies in the cities purchased all the heavy horses, and paid big prices for them, so the pioneers could only get the smaller horses. It took years of breeding to good stock to get good sized work horses. The settlers had just reached the stage where they had big, beautiful horses when the change-over to tractors occurred. Many of those beautiful horses went for slaughter, quite a few of which were never even broken to work.

Back in those early days, a mother was her family

doctor. The young mother of today should pause for a moment and ask herself what she would do if one of her children was very ill, and there was no doctor to take the child to. I recall my Mother telling of the time when the house was still under construction, the brick chimney was not yet built, there was only a roof jack into which the stovepipes fitted. The children were sleeping, her husband had gone for another load of freight, and when she came in from milking the cow she could smell smoke. Running upstairs, not even setting down the half pail of milk she was carrying, she saw that right around the jack, the roof was on fire. She made a dead aim with the milk from the pail and made a direct hit, losing all the milk but saving the home! A few minutes later, and it would have been too late.

1914 was a sad year for mothers and wives, to see their husbands and sons marching off to war. My poor Grandmother saw three sons, two boys engaged to her daughters, one son-in-law and two grandsons all leave for war. Three never returned.

Pioneer mothers were very thrifty; they saved everything that could be used. It sounds foolish to us now, but at that time they wouldn't even waste a match. We used to roll strips of paper into a spiral shape and put them in a container. When my Dad wanted to light his pipe or Mother light the lamp, they always used the rolled papers by holding one in the kitchen stovebox until it was alight. Today, matches are given away as advertisements!

The pioneers were just getting on their feet after a hard struggle, things were shaping up and beginning

to look much brighter in 1929. Grain was a good price, then, "bang", the stock markets crashed, causing twelve more years of hardships. Why? Nobody seems to have the answer. This broke the backs of a lot of the pioneers; twenty to twenty-five years of struggle and strife were just too much for them. When the pioneers were working so hard to get their quarters broken and into production they thought everything would be rosy in a short while. Back in the early days money was spent at home. All the farmers helped each other, and very rarely did money change hands. One farmer had a threshing separator, and he charged a few cents a bushel to thresh the grain. The farmers in the district supplied the help, and the farmer who was being threshed fed the crew.

The Adkins family consisted of Mother and Dad (Alf and Annie), Jim, Bill, Barb, Sheila and Richard (Dick). Alfred passed away in June, 1944 and Annie in January 1980. Bill was working on a Government bridge when the scaffold broke and he fell to the ice below. He never regained his strength and health and passed away two years later. Jim, Barb and Dick still live in Westlock district. Sheila lives in Toronto. Dick was born on the homestead on Oct. 7th, 1907, believed to be the first baby born to a pioneer family this far north of Edmonton. He never left the farm and has no desire to do so.

### **John A. Adkins Family by Lois W. Grant**

John A. Adkins and family (Mother, George, Louie, May and myself (Lois) also the oldest son,



Adkins family at the Wabash — 1912. Back row, L to R: May, Alf, Gill, Mart, Will, George, Lois. Front row: Louie, Mrs. Adkins, John Adkins, Dot.



Alfred and his wife Annie, and their three children left England to emigrate to Canada in search of land (160 acres of land for Ten Dollars and three years of residence, as advertised freely in all the papers). We left King Sutton, near Banbury, Oxfordshire on March 22, 1905. My maternal grandfather, E. Hancox, had gone to Vancouver soon after the fire there around 1890. He returned to England and in September, 1903, went back to Vancouver accompanied by my brothers Gill, Mart and Will. My sisters, Dot, Lilian and Eunice remained in England for a year before joining the family in Canada. The oldest sister, Alice, was already married to Bert Hermon and remained in England all her life.

We stayed at a boarding house in Liverpool overnight, and left on March 23, 1905 to embark on the "Victorian," a new ship on her maiden voyage. There was a strong odor of new paint, which didn't help to prevent sea sickness! It was considered a comparatively good voyage for those days, taking ten days. We landed at Halifax on April 1st. (Arthur and Edwin Stanley, friends from King Sutton, who were on the same ship, went on to land at St. Johns). After waiting around for the unloading of our luggage, we boarded the C.P.R. train for Edmonton. We had quite a long wait at Winnipeg, in make-shift sheds, to change trains. The station had burned down. We finally arrived in Edmonton, after a week's trip, on April 8th. The train did not go over the river to Edmonton, so we stayed on the south side (Strathcona) at the Immigration Hall. The Portas family were the caretakers and it was very clean but quite bare. We had to use our own bedding and utensils, and make our own meals on a large communal stove. Several English families were there; the Sandfords and Nash, also Kinsellas from Ontario. We stayed there for some time, except for Alfred, who obtained some rooms in a house, until our men had built a

house on a lot Dad bought on Griesbach Ave. (85th St. and 90th Ave.) and we all lived together there till Alf rented a house just up the street for his family, where Sheila was born in November, 1905. Grandfather Hancox came from Vancouver to live with us for a year. Gill came in the fall and Mart later on. Will came a year or two later. Louise contracted scarlet fever that summer and we were quarantined for some time, so we were unable to take part in the celebration of the inauguration of the new Province of Alberta.

May and I went to school at Grandin Street School (later, King Edward). The three older sisters arrived in May, 1906 and got work. The house was sold in 1907 and we moved into another house which Dad had built on a lot on 90th Avenue, just east of 99th Street. The men had been looking for homesteads in all parts around the country, and finally filed on land in the Pembina district (now Westlock).

They built a log house and barn. Alf's house had been built first, and he moved his family there in the winter of 1906. We moved out to the homestead in July, 1907, after a tiring trip over muddy roads, with horses and wagons, camping three nights on the road and staying the fourth night at Alf's, going on to our homestead the next day, with his team of oxen and wagon. The girls came out later for their holidays and we had a good summer, picking berries (while being devoured by mosquitoes) and having parties at the homes being established and getting to know neighbours. I stayed with Mother and some of the boys while the rest returned to work in Edmonton, where Dad was. May went back to school at Queen Alexandra. I missed that year of schooling, until a school was built at Swallowhurst. This was the name given to the Post Office Alf kept in the little store he had established, hauling his supplies from Morinville with his ox teams. I spent three years at Swallowhurst School, walking 3½ miles. The teachers were Mrs. Hill and Miss Hicks, both from England, and Vernon Leake, whose family lived in the district. Then I went to Edmonton for High School, attending Strathcona Collegiate Institute (later Strathcona High) staying most of the time with my sister Eunice Bruder.

In 1914 the First World war was on and brothers Mart, Will and George enlisted in the Edmonton formed 49th Battalion under Colonel Griesbach, as did Eddie Boon, to whom I was engaged. They left Edmonton in May, 1915, and in June Mother and Louie (whose husband had also enlisted in the R.C.M.R.) went to England to visit sister Alice and family, and also to be able to see the boys when they were on leave. Gill, May and I were left at home to look after the farms. Mother and Louie came back home in the summer of 1917, also Eddie, who had been wounded and discharged. George did not get



The shop on 90th Avenue, 1908.



Mr. and Mrs. John Adkins with family of eleven. Lois was born later, making twelve. Back row, R to L: Alf, Gil, Martin, Alice, Dot, Will. Front row, R to L: Eunice, Aunt Alice with May, George, Uncle John with Louise, Lillian.

home until March, 1919. Mart and Will and Louie's husband all lie buried in France. Eddie and I were married on November 9th, 1917 and went to live on his homestead on the Pembina River, about seven miles from home. Eddie died January 13, 1924.

### Louie Adkins by Maisie Platt

Louie Adkins, my mother, was born in Kings Sutton, England on December 27, 1890 to be one of a family of twelve who left England in 1905 for Alberta. They made their home on the banks of the Wabash west of Westlock on the quarter north of the Golf Course, a beautiful spot today enjoyed by many.

Mother told us many stories of homestead days, good and bad. She told about my grandfather John Alfred Adkins who was operated on in the kitchen on the table, by a doctor from Clyde who came to the log cabin on horseback. Grandfather never did completely recover from the operation.

In 1912 Mother married Charles Ballie Hamilton in her parents home, as her father was too ill to get out of his sick bed. The newlyweds lived on a homestead next to her parents, John and Alice Adkins.



Adkins Sisters: Lois Grant, May MacDougall, Louie Sherwin, Eunice Bruder, Lillian Stanley and Dorothy Brettelle.

The following year Charles received a position in an Edmonton lumber yard so they moved there. In 1914 war broke out and Charles went to France where he was killed in action.

In the year 1918 Louie remarried to Pat Donnelly, my father. He lived till I was the age of three. He died in an Edmonton hospital.

Some years later mother remarried to Charles Sherwin who had four children, Doris, Cliff, Donald



and Nick. This family of seven lived on a farm ten miles south east of Edmonton. Two or more years later we moved to the Westlock area, one and one-half miles north of the golf course. Mother was now back home close to her brothers and sisters and Hazel Bluff Church. I lived on the farm and went to Sunny Bank School and worked in the area until my marriage to George Platt. George and I farmed two miles north of Westlock on the old Pibroch road.

George served in the R.C.A.F. in World War Two. We have three children. Lawrence and family live in Hay Lakes. Mary Anne Lehmann is in Grande Prairie. David is in Westlock. We are retired and live in Westlock in East Glen.

George is a member of the Westlock Legion. He is a past member of the U.F.A and also the Alberta Wheat Pool.

I am a member of Westlock Five Pin Bowling Association and have been for twenty years and still love to bowl twice a week. For over thirty I have been an active member of the Women of Unifarm. We also belong to the Westlock and District Old Timer's Association and the Westlock History Book Society.

Mother, Louie Sherwin worked for the Salvation Army, Hazel Bluff and Westlock United Church Women. She passed away in the Westlock Nursing Home on November 9, 1981 and was laid to rest in the Hazel Bluff Cemetery.

## The Ben Allen Family

In 1903, Ben Allen, his wife Jennie and children Olive Irene and Clifton Anthony came from Cromarty, Ontario, to Strathcona, in the search for land.

In 1905, Ben and a neighbour, Mr. Charles Kinsella, heard of land being opened for homesteading in the Pembina River area, to which they came in June of that year. Ben Allen rode a bicycle; Charles Kinsella was on horseback. Each man built a claim shack on some land and returned to Edmonton to file their claim. Surveyors were staking this new area at that time.

The family moved to the district in May, 1906 and lived in the new log home of William J. Brooks, brother of Jennie Allen, until the spring of 1908 when the new frame house, barn and other buildings were built on their own land. Unfortunately, they had just nicely moved in when a bush fire destroyed all the buildings except the house.

Mr. Allen's three brothers, Ivy, Harold and Stanley also homesteaded in the area. Ivy soon gave up and returned to Ontario, Harold left soon after getting the title to his homestead and Stanley remained to farm for many years. William Brooks was joined by his sister, Annie Brooks who came from Seaforth, Ontario to make her home with her brother



Ben and Jennie Allen on their Golden Wedding Day, February 21, 1944.

on the homestead. Mrs. Allen's nephew, William James Norris proved up a homestead also but left a few years later.

Clifton Allen married Laura Maud Laverty on August 7, 1928. They had three children: Rae Clifton who later married Corrie Case of Jasper Place and had three children — Daryl Avery, Neal Rae and Lea Adele.



Back: Clare, Rae, Mr. Allen, Cliff and Bill. Front: Miss Brook, Laura and Dorothy, Christmas, 1947.

The second son, Clare, married Donna Faye Smith of Edmonton and has two children, Lesley Colleen and Gregory Wayne.

The daughter, Dorothy, married F/L Roger James Neill of Edmonton; lived in Germany for a few years and had two sons, David Clifton and Douglas James.

Olive Irene Allen, Ben Allen's daughter, married William Ernest McKibben on March 14, 1946 and they lived on the McKibben homestead for many years. Bill died May 8, 1971.

Mrs. Ben Allen died in 1944 and Mr. Allen in 1948. Mr. Ben Allen had been very active in community affairs. He was the first Justice of the Peace in the area, first Secretary-Treasurer of Riverdale School, first councillor nominated in the Shoal Creek Municipality and Reeve for a few years. He was at one time President of the Westlock Agricultural Society and vice-president of the Old Timers' Association.



Wm. McKibben and wife Olive, 1946.

Olive continued to live on the old home place after Bill's death and took a great interest in community and church affairs until her death in a car accident in Westlock in 1979. She served as a willing worker in the Hazel Bluff Farm Women's Association, in the Old Timers' Association and especially in the choir and women's work of the Hazel Bluff United Church. She is fondly remembered by those who knew her.

## **The Fred Allen Story as written by his daughter Hazel Howie**

Frederick Waterman Allen was born in 1890 in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. His father was a sea captain and his farm, on the outskirts of Yarmouth is still called Captain Paskey Allen's farm!

My father, Fred Allen, came west on a harvest excursion in 1910 and worked for a season on the prairies. In 1913 he married Elizabeth Brockie, who had come from Inverness, Scotland. They lived in Edmonton for a period, and then, hearing that territory north of Edmonton was open for homesteading, they journeyed north. They travelled from Edmonton by horse drawn wagon, towing a cow and another horse, with all their belongings at that time. In the spring of 1914 they filed on the SE¼-16-59-27-W4 which is located four miles west and four miles south of Westlock. They worked hard clearing and breaking the land and building a home. To supplement the family income during the winter, my father went about the district wood sawing and grain crushing with a stationery engine, moved about by a team of horses.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Allen with Mildred (3) and Hazel (1). 1917.



During the years, the family were strong supporters of the United Farmers Association and the newly formed Hazel Bluff Community Club. Much could be said about the community spirit of those days. The local U.F.A. later decided to build a hall at Hazel Bluff. My parents spent much time helping on this project and travelled many miles to sell shares to finance the building of the hall. Though it has received a face lifting during the years, the hall still stands proudly on the Hazel Bluff hill and is one of the more active community centres.

The Allen family consisted of four children; Mildred, born in 1914, married to Hubert Bain and now living in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

Florence, born in 1918 married Keith Churchill of Nova Scotia. She became a widow in 1965 and later married Clarence Pitman.



Fred Allen, age 21 years.

Glenn was born in 1928 and died in 1946 after a tragic gun accident. I was born in 1916 at Hazel Bluff and as yet have not found a better place to live. Our mother passed away in 1932 after a very short illness.

In 1936, Grandfather Allen, then in his 80th year, persuaded my father to return to Nova Scotia to manage the family farm. He, being the only son in the family, felt it was his duty to do so even though

his heart and his home were in Alberta. I had married Archie Howie in 1935, so we bought my Dad's homestead and lived there for several years.

My Dad passed away in 1965. There being no more Allen heirs, the family name has become extinct but our eldest sister and her husband now own the family farm in Nova Scotia. It has been able to retain the name of the "Captain Allen Farm."

## Stanley Collins Allen

I was born on a farm in Ontario about 30 miles north from London in Hibbert County. I decided to come West and having two brothers already living in the Westlock district added incentive to come to Alberta.

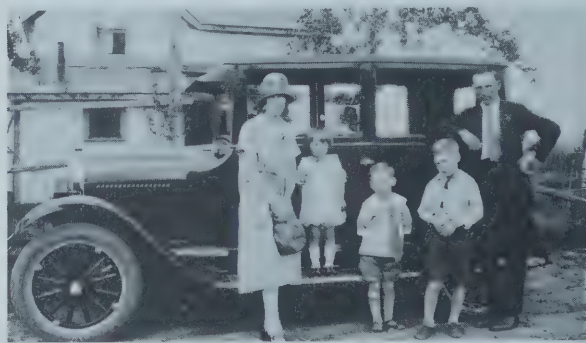
My brother Ben, his wife Jenny, and their two children Olive and Clifton (Cliff), had settled on a homestead 1½ miles north of Hazel Bluff Church in 1906. Another brother, Harold, came in 1911 homesteading two miles west of Ben's.

I arrived by train the fall of 1912 at Clyde, the nearest railroad station. Ben came to meet me with the team and democrat. The base line (now Highway #18) had been graded from Clyde to Westlock on west to Rossington the previous summer. It was the only graded road in the district.

To me, the country seemed to be covered with trees, with very little land under cultivation.

My homestead was situated across the Pembina River, the Northwest quarter of Section 23, Township 60, Range 1, West of the Fifth Meridian. There was no bridge or ferry to get across the river, so I used a boat loaned by my brother Ben during summers. The Government supplied a ferry two or three years later with Jocky Calder as ferryman. The crossing was known then as Lett's Ferry.

Ben had built a good frame house, lath and plastered: one of the first in the district. Ben later became notary public, council man, and school trustee.



Stanley Allen and family: Mrs. Allen, Wilson, Harold and Jean. Taken at Ben Allen's on the way to Westlock Fair. 1926 2-door Chev. car.

Harold and I spent the first winter building a log house and stable on his homestead, and a stable on my homestead. Again, Ben loaned us a team of horses for skidding out the logs.

We spent winters working at different sawmills, one being Clarke Brothers operated by Art and Wolsey. Summers were spent working on the prairies.

I cleared the land of trees and brush with an axe. The first ten acres were broken with four oxen and a 14 inch wooden beam breaker made by Frost and Wood — makers of farm implements.

Harold sold his homestead after completing the homestead duties which took three to four years. He went to Saskatchewan to work, later buying land near Drinkwater.

The Pembina River cut up some sections leaving several fractions of land which adjoined mine. I bought these fractions from the Government and enlarged my farm.

Working during the winters enabled me to purchase my own horses and machinery.

In 1919 I married Mary Tennant, daughter of William and Jane Tennant who owned and operated the Rossington General Store. We moved into a new frame house on our homestead. Shortly afterward the house burned down forcing us to move back into my old log house. While we lived there our first three children were born; Wilson, Harold, and Jean.

In the 1920's I borrowed money to purchase a Fordson tractor and power machinery. The next years were hard work. Tom Letts owned the first car in the district — a Model T. Ford. In 1926 I purchased a brand new two door Chev. In 1929 we built a new modern home with full basement, furnace and a cistern. We were living in this house when Norman was born.

The children attended grades 1 through 8 at Riverdale School, one of the oldest in the district. They had to cross the river by ferry, a deep concern for parents. They attended Sunnybank for high school grades 9 to 11.

In 1940 we were deeply saddened when my wife Mary passed away. She is buried in the Hazel Bluff Cemetery.

Wilson joined the R.C.A.F. in 1942. He now resides in Edmonton.

I married Florence Strachan in 1943, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Strachan, originally from Melita, Manitoba but then farming at Dapp, Alberta. We continued living on the original farm. Later Harold and Jean left to be on their own. Harold lives in Edmonton, Jean in Sorrento, British Columbia.

Our daughter Colleen was born while we were still on the old farm. We sold that farm the fall of 1947

to Bill Pudlowski and bought two quarters of land from Mr. Redekop. This land had been homesteaded by the Thompson twins in the Pibroch district, four and one half miles north of Westlock. I cleared and broke 90 acres by hired brush cutter and cat-pulled breaker. What a contrast between clearing with an axe.

Norman attended Prosperous School and made some good friends whom he still visits.

We sold the Pibroch farm in 1950 to Bert Gamble, then moved to Edmonton.

Joan, Dan, and Janet were born in the City. All four children graduated from Jasper Place Composite High School. Norman lives in Edmonton as does Dan and Janet. Colleen and Joan live in Calgary.

Ben and Jenny passed away in the 1940's. Olive married William McKibbin in 1946; they lived on Ben's farm. Bill died in the early 1970's. Olive sold the farm to Ken Stanley keeping the buildings until her sudden death by car/truck accident in 1979. She lived over 70 years on her father's farm.

Cliff married Laura Laverty. Their three children are Rae, Claire and Dorothy. Cliff passed away suddenly of a heart attack in 1951.

Although having lived in the city for many years now, memories of homesteading and the good as well as bad times still linger on. Things can never be the same.

## **The Alton's** **by Lorne and Elaine**

Michael and Elizabeth Alton and only child Berton, arrived at Edison from Lucknow, Ontario in 1904. Michael was a stone mason by trade and also farmed in Ontario. They bought the N.E.-¼-35-59-26-W4 from the C.P.R. Later they bought the N.W.-¼-35-59-26-W4 and the N.E.-¼-34-59-26-W4 from Neil Hughes. Approximately in the year 1909 Berton Alton bought the N.W. ¼-4-60-26-W4 before Westlock was named and before the railroad went through. This last quarter was bought from the province of Alberta.

During the time that Mike Alton was farming at Edison, Bert Alton was a Methodist preacher working from Marwayne to Provost. During his stay there he boarded at Wheeler's in Marwayne where a romance blossomed with Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Wheelers oldest daughter Emma. In 1911 on June tenth, Emma Wheeler became the bride of Berton Alton.

The young couple left the Marwayne area to return to the farm Berton had purchased earlier. There was an old sod shack on the farm they lived in until a new home was built. Bert took over the land titles office from Jack Edson. This was where the





Mrs. Bert Alton, about 1960.

pioneers filed for their homesteads. This office was located on his farm as there was no Westlock at that time. Later a post office was opened in Westlock across from the present Bank of Nova Scotia, where he was the first post master. After about a year it was turned over to Jack Dezall. The land office was moved to Barrhead so Berton returned again to farming beside the new town. Only about five acres were broke so all the remaining land had to be broke little by little. The trees were so thick you could walk from treefall to treefall without touching ground.

In 1922 on April 6, Clarence Alton was born. People said Bert was stepping at least two feet high as they had been married ten years. Another four years passed until their second and only other child was born, Lorne Alton. As the years passed first Lorne left the district in 1950.

In the spring of 1953, Clarence took over the family farm, after the death of his father. Later that same year, he married Elinor Marks, a Westlock Girl.

He also was one of the first to grow rapeseed in the district. The first planting was around 1959. This turned out to be of the Argentine variety, and grew to at least six feet tall. This first crop caused many problems in swathing and combining, as it had been snowed on early in the season. It finally dried, and in one day three combines had harvested the entire fifty acres. Two of the combines belonged to Wallace Mercier. The self-propelled combines were much superior to the tractor pull type, as the rape was difficult to feed evenly. Needless to say, the next plantings were of the Polish variety.

Clarence left Westlock in 1974, and now resides in Kamloops, B.C.

Lorne is living in Edmonton, with his wife, Elaine.

## The Alton Family

by Dick Adkins

The Alton family homesteaded one year later than my parents. It seems the odd numbered quarter sections were not open until one year later than the even numbered ones. Mr. and Mrs. Alton (Jack and Bessie) took up a homestead a mile and a half west of the railway crossing on what is now Highway 18. They had four children at that time (1906). They were Elmer, Herb, Roy and May. Another boy, Jim, was born later, on the homestead.

After they had been here four years, Mr. Alton became very ill with cancer. Only himself and the family knew the suffering that man went through, until death relieved him of his pain. I was very small at that time, but I can still remember how he used to groan with pain. This left Mrs. Alton to carry on alone although the two oldest boys were a great help, but the strain and hardship must have been more than a pen can describe. Only three of the family are alive today, (1982).



The Jack Alton family, Herb, Elmer and Roy at back. Dollie, Mrs. Alton and Jim.

A lot of credit is due the widows that came to our district in the early days, and filed on homesteads. As strange as it might seem, but true, on one section of land about two miles west of the railroad, three of the quarters were filed on by widows; Mrs. Cindy Guest, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Grant had the three quarters and a bachelor, Mr. Si Graveson, had the other one.

Mrs. Nellie Wood, Mrs. McGregor, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Thompson all proved up homesteads in the Westlock area. Three ministers proved up homesteads also; Mr. Telfer, Mr. French and Mr. Smith. We must not forget the bachelors who filed on homesteads and never married. It takes all kinds of people to make a world, and there were two in our area that really deserve mention. How one ever got the title to his quarter is a mystery. Day after day he would sit in his log shack and smoke his pipe. Once in a while he would get a job carpentering, but as soon as he had a few dollars he would return to his shack to smoke! Another was a man from Europe who must have proved up his homestead with cattle because he always refused to work. Many of the neighbors told of going over there to ask if he would give them a hand to do something that they could not do alone, but the answer was always "No".

Some of the settlers had ways of fooling the Homestead Inspectors. Before a settler could get the title they had to dig a well as part of the necessary improvements. Some would pretend they had dug a well, but all it would be was a shallow hole around which they had piled chunks of wood which they covered with the dirt from the hole, which made a fair sized pile of dirt. Then they would haul some water which was poured in the hole. When the Inspector came he would be given a long "line" about how the water came in so fast that the digger barely had time to get out of the hole! Even so, I never heard a homesteader complain about the Inspector; I guess they gave the settlers the breaks, knowing the trials and things they had to go through.

One day, Mrs. Evans, one of the settlers, jumped off a high wagon that she had been riding on, which had a hay rack on it, and her wedding ring caught on a nail and pulled her finger off! She had to ride in the lumber wagon all the way to Morinville to a doctor, to get it fixed up. She must have really suffered, riding that far.

Another near tragedy was on July 18, 1918. It was the night of a killing frost (possibly the only crop failure we ever had), when a little girl living two miles south of Westlock was reported missing from her home. It was difficult to notify people in those days as the only means of communication was to ride horseback, or go on foot, to the nearest neighbor. Word got around and soon a search was on. At that time most of the area was still bush and nobody knew in which direction she might have gone. They searched until darkness set in, then had to wait till morning to resume the search. Mr. William Guest, who lived two miles south of where the golf course now is, was finishing up his chores, when he heard a cry down in the creek bottom. He didn't know

whether it was a child or a baby lynx, but he was worried, so he took a lantern and went to make sure. It was so cold that his pant legs froze as he walked through the wet grass. The coyotes were howling, and he had a difficult time crossing the Wabash Creek in the dark. As he got closer he knew the sound was from a child. He found her and picked her up; all she said was "The red dogs are after me" and promptly went to sleep in his arms.

When he got her home they tried to find out who she was, but she would not talk; she seemed to be in a coma or in shock. This little girl was three miles from home, the way the crow flies. Nobody knows how far she walked in the grass, bushes and swamps. Her clothes were torn to rags.

Mr. Guest took her to Westlock in the morning with the team and wagon, to Mr. McTavish's store. Mr. McTavish was one of the first car owners, so he rushed her home in his car. It was a real miracle that the little child was found on such a cold night.

## **The Arthur Anhorn Story** **by Helen Anhorn**

Arthur Anhorn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anhorn, came with his parents to Pickardville from Verteran, Alberta in 1933 at the age of eleven years. He worked for a Vimy farmer, Joe Dusseault, from the fall of 1939 to the spring of 1940.

Art joined the Army in November, 1942; trained in Edmonton, Prince George and Calgary. He was honourably discharged in December, 1943 due to health reasons.

In June, 1944, he started as elevator manager for Federal Grain and held this position until he resigned in the summer of 1973.

In the spring of 1945 he had taken over the North Star Oil agency, delivering gas and oil in a converted model T Ford which was also used at times to transport his sister Eileen and brother Roy to school. He sold the oil business in the spring of 1981.

In 1949 he started selling insurance. That year he married Helen Herch of Edmonton, whom he had met while she was teaching school. They had three boys and a girl. Barry attended University and later came to work with his father on the farm, which had been purchased from Clarence Nickels in 1965. Barry married in 1974 and has two daughters; Carrie, 7, and Angie, 5. Gary is attending NAIT where he is taking Earth Resources. Danny was killed in a car accident in 1971. He was enrolled in Medicine at the University of Alberta. Debbie lives in Edmonton and works as an executive secretary for the Economic Development Dept. of the Provincial Government.



## Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anhorn by Eileen (Anhorn) Glebe

Our father Fred Anhorn was born at Albuta, Russia February 24, 1894. At the age of seven he emigrated with his parents to the Robinson district in southern Alberta. At the age of 13 he left home to herd sheep for two bits a day. In 1912 he moved to Hilda, Alberta where he homesteaded.

Mother was born, Emilia Phlipe at Odessia, Russia on February 14, 1899. She emigrated with family at age of eleven first to North Dakota, U.S.A. then to Pivot (near Hilda, Alberta). When she was fifteen her mother passed away and she was left in charge of the home and an eight year old sister.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anhorn, 1940, beside 1935 Ford car.

Our parents were united in marriage at the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Hilda, Alberta, November 5, 1916. There they farmed until 1926 when after a bad drought Dad went up to the Veteran area looking for land. There he rented a farm five miles from Veteran. He went back to Hilda and shipped everything by railroad in December of that year.

By this time they had four children Edna (1918), Herbert (1920), Arthur (1922) and Theodore (1924).

In 1928 Dad brought his first car a Model T Ford. In fact I'm sure a lot of people in this area can probably still remember that old Model T, Art and

Ted converted it to a truck with a wooden box on the back. Art also used it as a delivery truck when he first took over the North Star gas agency in 1944.

In 1934 drought and grasshoppers cleaned things up so there wasn't any feed. Dad again set out to look for a different location in the north. In November of that year he ordered four boxcars and shipped everything, horses, cattle, machinery and personal belongings. Also by this time there were two more children who were born at Veteran, Roy (1932) and Eileen (1934).

Arriving at Arvilla everything was unloaded and moved to the farm known as the Cassidy place. From there we moved to what was known as the Montpelier farm.

In 1936 we moved to the Gagnon farm (NW. 34-58-26-W4th) located 3½ miles east of Pickardville and one mile north. The next move came in 1938 to the Watkin's farm (NW-27-58-26-W4th) one mile to the south. Dad and Mom remained there until they retired to Pickardville in 1958. Their son Ted bought the farm, Ted and his son Terry bought more land and farm there yet.

Alexander Robb known to most people as Sandy and to us kids as Uncle, came with us from southern Alberta, as did Morton Halseth.

It was while we were living at the Gagnon place brother Roy needed a pair of rubbers, Dad and Sandy went to Pickardville. While Dad went to the hitching post with the horses, Sandy went into the Pioneer Store then owned by Joe Demers. When Dad got to the store Sandy had already bought rubber boots for Roy. Arriving back home Sandy put them on Roy, and said now see if you still get wet feet. Roy immediately went to the road and walked in the ditch, then went back to the house and said Uncle there still not high enough. Water had gone over the top "wet feet again".

Sometimes when we get together we remember all the things Sandy did with us kids, and laugh about times gone by and all the fun we had and believe it or not it didn't cost us anything.

Before we had a radio Art and Sandy used to walk down from the Gagnon farm, to Adolf Ott's to listen to, Don Messer and His Islanders.

I remember the excitement about our first radio (Stewart-Warner), everybody was eager to listen, Wilf Carter, Fibber McGee and Molly, Amos and Andy, Don Messer and His Islanders also the soap opera's "Pepper Young's Family", and "Ma Perkins". Mother used to listen too.

Entertainment consisted of Saturday night house parties. Also box socials, open dances (not cabaret style) and old fashioned Christmas concerts at Elk Park school.

In 1941 Dad got his first tractor a McCormick 22-36 on steel wheels from W. J. Murfitt of Pibroch, for which he traded five horses. Some of us were sad to see the horses go, one of the horses named George was sold to someone at Rochester and returned home one day all by himself. After being hauled to Pibroch by truck and sold, now that's "horse sense".

After retiring to Pickardville in 1958, Dad passed away in September 1962. Mother remained there until July 1969, when she was remarried to William Glebe Sr. In 1970 they moved to Westlock and Mother passed away in August 1974.

Our parents were kind, generous, hard working honest people. Their first home was a sod shack, until a frame house was built.

Mother was a great cook and there was always room for more people. They had many friends. When a lunch was prepared it was like a meal.

Edna was married to Morton Halseth on April 21, 1939 in the Pickardville United Church. They returned to Consort, Alberta to farm. They had three children Martin, Myda and Valerie who are all married and live in that area. Morton passed away in Dec. 1971.

Herb was married to Bessie Brown in June 1941. They had two girls Shirley and Sharon. They were divorced, Herb remarried twice. He passed away in March 1978 at Edmonton, Alberta. His wife Mary resides in Edmonton.

Art married Helen Herd of Edmonton on July 8, 1949. They had four children Barry, Gary, Daniel and Deborah. They still reside at Pickardville.

Ted was married to Jean Wendy of Pickardville on Dec. 16, 1949. They had two sons Terence and Donald. Jean passed away August 1980. Ted now resides in Westlock, but still farms with son Terry at Pickardville.

Roy was married to Louise Paquette of Smith, Alberta. They had one son Jimmy. Louise passed away August 1973. Roy still works for the Department of Highways at Smith.

Eileen married Douglas Glebe on July 18, 1952. They have two children Kathryn and Gordon. Eileen and Douglas live on their farm at Pickardville.

## The Antonson Story

by Olga Hadley

In 1911, Carl Antonson came from North Dakota, where he had immigrated from Nesna, Norway. He filed on a homestead, the NE¼-4-27-W4 and built a log house out of sturdy balm trees. There were lots of tall balms growing beside the Pembina River. He could see that there would be lots of work to clear the land for farming, but he was not discouraged.

The Short family had moved into the district in

1910. Carl met, and fell in love with Jean Short and they were married in October 1913 in Edmonton. By this time Carl had cleared ten acres of the heavy timber and seeded oats so there would be feed for the horses he would require to help clear the land. The log house was a real prize in those days. It wasn't very big but was a two storey affair, with sleeping quarters upstairs. He had partitioned off part of the downstairs for a workshop, where he had a vice, anvil and shoe last, so on rainy days Carl could be found in his little workshop repairing harness or shoes, building storage boxes, and anything that required fixing was done there.



Antonson family in front of the old house 1925. Carl in front, Jean holding Martin. At back, L to R: Thelma and Irene. In front: Earl and Olga.

About 1919, he built an addition to the house. This contained a kitchen, pantry and hall, and also a bedroom, for the family had grown and the upstairs had only two rooms.

Often Carl went hunting in the fall and would be gone two or three weeks. At that time it was a great treat for the children taking turns sleeping with their mother on the new springfilled mattress. Such a change from the straw ticks! To Carl, these hunting trips were a necessity, he always came home with enough meat to last the family the year round. Sometimes he would bring home a moose or two and always a deer. Then Jean would take over. She would can moose meat in two-quart sealers and by the time she was finished the shelves Carl had built in the



cellar were full of a beautiful assortment of food. She would make hamburgers (or mooseburgers) which really would spark the appetite of anyone! Sometimes she would grind the moosemeat and mix it with pork, make it into patties already cooked, then store them in huge crocks (mostly five gallon stone crocks). She would put the patties in layer by layer, and each layer would be covered by fresh rendered lard. These crocks were covered tightly and stored in the cellar. It was a real treat to take a pan of patties, melt the fat off, and make some gravy. Many a hungry visitor marvelled at how the women in those days could get a meal fit for a king in half an hour. All that was needed were potatoes and a vegetable and cabbage salad, all grown in the garden. Along with the canned meat, it was a feast! Jean always had a huge garden, as did most homestead wives. She would can peas, beans and corn in sealers. The carrots, turnips and parsnips were stored in sand in the cellar. The potatoes were also stored there in a bin. Cabbages were wrapped in newspaper and hung from the beams in the cellar.

There was one time they tell about, when Dr. Phillips drove out from Westlock with his horse and buggy. He was looking for the Adair's, who lived further north, but he had become lost. Jean crossed the river in the boat and showed him the way, then walked back home after. People were always ready to help each other in those days.

Carl and Jean raised five children. They got most of their schooling at Sunniebend School, although when the oldest started, the Sunniebend School was not built yet, so she had to go to Sunnybank, which was four miles away, to the south. Carl helped get the School at Sunniebend built, but his daughter stayed at her uncle's that first year, and started in Grade Two at Sunniebend the next year.

When Irene was about thirteen years old, there was an epidemic of Infantile Paralysis, which later became known as Polio. She caught the infection and

spent some months in the Colonel Mewburn Hospital. In 1937, Irene married Egan Andres, and lived at Flatbush, where they raised five children, four boys and one girl. Irene now resides at White Rock, B.C.

Thelma was two years younger than Irene. She also went to school at Sunniebend, and in November, 1937, she married Ed Bergdahl. He was a cabinet maker and also built houses. They lived around the Pibroch district for several years, then in 1954 they moved to Chase, B.C. where Thelma still lives.

Olga, the third daughter, was four years younger than Thelma. She attended public school at Sunniebend and went on to High School at Sunny Bank. In 1941, she married Douglas Hadley; they lived at Linaria and raised a family of eight, five boys and three girls. Olga still lives on the farm in the Linaria district.

Earl was the oldest son born two years after Olga. He went to school at Sunniebend and in 1940 joined the navy. He married Joyce Walker in 1942. They lived in Victoria, B.C. There were two boys to bless this family, and both are in the R.C.M.P. When Earl left the navy, they went to live at Kinuso, Alberta for quite a few years, where they managed Joyce's father's store. Later, they moved back to Victoria where Earl started building houses. They now live at Sooke, B.C.

Martin, the youngest boy, was two years younger than Earl. He went to Sunniebend School and in 1941 he also joined the navy. He was sent to the West Coast and there he met and married Marion Butterfield, in 1942. They lived in Victoria while Martin was in the navy. When the war was over, Martin and family came home to help Carl and Jean with the farming, but there wasn't much money in farming so they decided to move back to the coast where Martin worked until 1981. He then retired and came back to good old Sunniebend. They had two boys and two girls in their family.

While the children were growing up, Carl and Jean built a new house on the opposite side of the river from their homestead. By this time, Carl was involved in the Wheat Pool. He helped start the U.F.A. Co-op, in Westlock; was a founding member of the Wheat Pool and was delegate for that organization for many years. He was called upon many times to chair all kinds of meetings. He joined the Federation of Agriculture, and was a delegate to the U.F.A. Conferences for several years. He helped start the Seed Cleaning Plant and worked with the Poultry Producers Co-op and the Rural Telephone Co-op. He helped build the Sunniebend Hall, and it was while they were sawing shingles for the hall that he sliced the end off his thumb. Many people in the Sunniebend district remember that episode.



Irene and Thelma Antonson, 1920. Note the dovetailed corners on the log house.

The homestead by the Pembina River was a real challenge for the heavy Balm Trees to be cleared and the land broken, which Carl did, except for a couple of fractions which the river cut off from other quarters. He left the trees on those fractions. He would say, "Those trees will "help to stop the river from taking all my land and putting it on the "other side." He also bought the NW¼ of section three, right across the river from the homestead from Mr. Kerr, and as it was a long way round by the Sunniebend Ferry to take the machines to work both quarters, he applied for a ferry, and got it in 1919. It was a real convenience to many neighbors, such as John Weise Sr., Roy Marshall, W. O'Connor, Alex Callow just to mention a few. When the Sunniebend Bridge was built, the ferry was moved down the river to be put where there was more need for it.

At the river bend at Grasby's they put a log over the small creek so that the children could cross to go to school, and in flood time, when the children crossed to get to school it was very dangerous. Carl, being the carpenter he was, built a railing for the children to hang onto while crossing. The river gave many a heartache to the family. Sometimes the horses and cows would get stuck in the mud banks or cows would try, in the spring, to cross the honeycombed ice and fall through. Carl taught all the children to swim, and wouldn't let them enter the water until he had tested the bottom for holes and dangerous places after each high water.

In 1944 and 1948, when the river flooded, the water was right up around the house. The basement windows broke and the basement filled up with muddy water. It was possible to take a row boat right up to the back steps. After the river went back down there was a huge cleaning up job to be done.

In the district there was always a lot of wild fruit to pick and can. Raspberries, strawberries, saskatoons and cranberries grew in profusion along the river bank. Jean made jam of the highbush cranberries and there were always lots of swamp cranberries which, when made into a sauce, went well with chicken or turkey. There were long trips made to pick blueberries which grew in the sandhills at Dapp and Jarvie, but usually a picnic was made out of the trip. Lunch was taken along and sometimes they stayed overnight with friends. The next day they would hurry home to clean and can the blueberries. In those days a neighbour was very important. Jean remembers going to Mrs. J. Weise's to make noodles. They would roll the dough out and then hang it on the clothes rack to dry. It took all day, so there were lots of stories told, recipes exchanged, and cups of tea consumed. When the noodles were dried just right, they were cut into long narrow strips, and stored in

heavy cotton sack in the pantry. Other times Mrs. Weise would visit Jean and they would spend all day making cookies.

Carl passed away in 1981 at the age of 96. Jean resides in the Pembina Lodge, and at 90 years she still gets around and really enjoys life. She likes to fly out to the West Coast and visit her sister and son and daughter. She has a good memory for all the things that happened, which makes life really interesting for her friends and family. She enjoys visiting with the grandchildren. She has twenty grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

### Alphonse Aquin and Family

Alphonse was born April 23, 1895 in Turton, South Dakota, U.S.A. and left with his parents Armidas Aquin and Delphine Rochon to settle in the Canadian West before Alberta became a Province. The year was 1900 and it was not until several years



Alphonse Aquin, aged 84, with son Roger.

later that Alphonse, after having a stint at working on the Edmonton-Athabasca railroad with Jack Gibbon, and before serving in England as a member of the armed forces (1917-1918) filed for new land . . . a homestead.

Alphonse was married in 1922 to Marie Morasse, and three children were born during the next five years; Antoinette, Roger and Alcide.





Alphonse Aquin and Marie Morasse (Wedding picture).

Antoinette, who resides in Edmonton, taught in Alberta Schools for 35 years and retired in 1979.

Roger, born in 1925, married Lorraine Rouleau, RNA, in 1956.

A second son, Alcide, predeceased his Mother in 1927.

Roger and Lorraine are the present owners of the old homestead on the NE¼-30-58-25-W4.

## The Tom Arlow Family History by Jerry Arlow

Tom Arlow migrated from Northern Ireland in 1924 to Toronto, Ontario. While in Ontario he worked in the gold mines for two years, then moved to Alcomdale, Alberta where his brother Will had land namely N½ 2-57-27-4. Tom and Will farmed during the summers and spent the winters with their horses and sleighs hauling fish from the northern lakes to railway siding for about ten years.

Tom met Francis Benson in the fall of 1929 and they were married in the spring of 1932. Jerry, a son was born in April of 1933 to a very happy couple. The Tom Arlow family continued to farm at Alcomdale until 1948 at which time he bought a farm from Dave Rivet in the Vimy area. This farm location is N.W. 8-58-25-4, the original homestead of John L'Abbe. They lived in the old house for eleven years, then built a modern home in 1959.

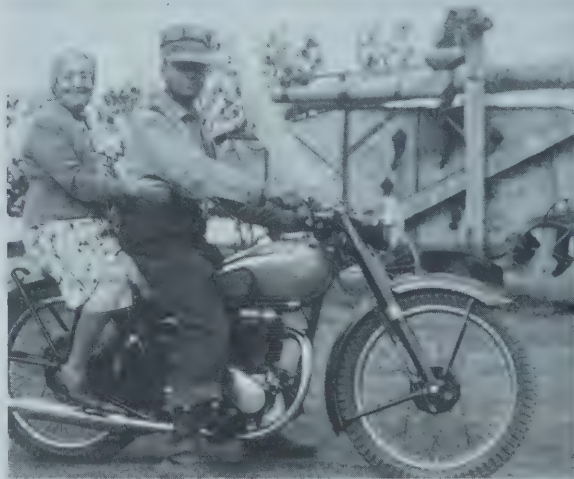


Frances and Tim Arlow.

By the time Jerry was twelve years old he was quite a help to his dad and especially liked to drive the 1929 John Deere tractor. Tom also owned a threshing machine that required eight men. He did some local custom threshing.

Francis did her part in preparing meals for the harvest gangs in addition to her many other responsibilities and enjoyed every bit of it.

Two interesting episodes of their farming career that come to mind are: One day when the men were very busy and a bit late Francis decided she would milk the cow and surprise them. She had never milked but was sure there was nothing to it. She sat



Grandma Benson and Jerry Arlow on his new motor bike.

down beside the cow and in no time at all cow, milkmaid and pail went in different directions. The cow didn't appreciate the new milkmaid, so they parted company for good.

The other incident was when Jerry, like any ordinary young fellow, decided he wanted a motorcycle so after talking it over with his parents it was decided he should earn the money himself. It was early spring, so Jerry figured that by raising a flock of turkeys during the summer for sales in the fall he would earn enough money for a motorcycle. Everything turned out in his favor and by fall he was the proud owner of a new motorcycle.

Tom farmed until 1972 when he passed away at the age of seventy. In the winter of 1973 Jerry went out on a blind date which was the undoing of his bachelor days. He met his wife to be and it was love at first sight. They were married in June that same year. His wife, Shirley, came from Ottawa, Ontario. She has a son and two granddaughters living in Edmonton.

After our marriage Francis moved to Edmonton where she stayed two years. Francis missed the farm so she bought a trailer home and moved back to the farm where she lived till she passed away in 1978 at the age of seventy-one.

Shirley took to farming just like a country girl although she was raised in the city. She drives a tractor or combine as well as any man.



Shirley and Jerry Arlow.

### Dave Armitage Family

Dave Armitage was born in 1873 in the Ottawa, Ontario District. Around 1910 he felt the urge to "go west, young man" and did so, homesteading in the Mosside area. He also ran a general store at Dusseldorf, later named Freedom.

While in the Mosside area he married Lavina Davidson and they moved to Westlock in 1919, homesteading the farm on Highway 18 at the edge of Westlock, which is still in the Armitage name. While in Westlock, Dave built a large home on the Pickardville road, probably the largest home in the Westlock area in the era. This house is no longer there. Lavina Armitage had a reputation of a good cook and their home became a "second home" for many of their children's friends. Many times Dave would look up from under his bushy eyebrows at the breakfast table to count heads and see how many extra he had for breakfast that morning.



Dave Armitage's Store (left), Brockie's Machine Shop (centre), Joe Feldman's Livery Barn (right). Joe Feldman at far left.

Times were good for Dave Armitage in those days. Besides homesteading, he built a dairy operation on his farm and for this purpose hired a man for door to door delivery of milk to the Town of Westlock. These were the days of 10¢ a quart for milk.

During these years and during his life at Mosside, Dave was a cattle buyer. The cattle were driven from the Mosside and Westlock areas clear through to Edmonton for sale at the Edmonton stockyards. This operation of course would take some time. Dave would go ahead of the drive, buying up the cattle from the farmers.

This was the era of the Model T Ford. Dave had the first Oakland and Graham-Page coupe in the area. He also had a race horse named Dolly. This horse was reputedly the fastest in the country. She had a saddle and horse hair bridle made by the prisoners at the Fort Saskatchewan gaol.

During these years Dave ran a general store in Westlock, on what is now 107th Street, in the approx-



imate location of the new McGlone Building. This store was next to Brockie's Machine Shop and Joe Feldman's livery barn. This was the age of food in barrels and pot bellied stoves with chairs grouped around for the gossip sessions. Dave's store had it all; a large warehouse at the back of the store, piled high with 100 lb. bags of flour and sugar. In the store was tobacco in leaves, hard rock candy and chocolate drops in open containers; apples, vinegar, pickles, molasses, all in barrels; nails by the keg; it was a true pioneer general store and whatever anyone wanted could be found there.

At this store Dave bought muskrat, weasel, squirrel, coyote and beaver furs. This was a big business and many trappers brought in furs and took out the value for same in groceries.

The school children would come from school at noon hour, for one penny would receive a large handful of candy. This good thing got to be known among the school children and soon they were all flocking to Armitage's store for candy.

Dave Armitage died in 1952.

Lavina Armitage died in 1962.

They had three sons and one daughter: Lawrence — predeceased them in 1947, Harry living in Edmonton, Alberta living in California and Ward living in Westlock.

## Jack Astill

by Anna (Astill) Seal

Jack was born in 1919, the second son of Myfawny and Sid Astill, in Wrexham, Wales. At an



Jack and Anna Seal (nee Astill). Jack's sisters Maude and Lillian.

early age he came with his parents to a farm one and a half miles from Westlock. He took his schooling there and remained on the farm.

In 1942 he married me, Anna Primeau, of Dapp. From that union there were seven children, all of whom are married and living in various places in Alberta. Only one son and his family, William, still reside in Westlock.

In 1948 we moved to Barrhead, where Jack worked at various jobs, mostly truck driving.

In 1957 Jack went to work in Edmonton at an excelsior plant. While still working there he was stricken with cancer and passed away.

I, Anna, am now married to Wilf Seal and we live in Barrhead.

## Astill Family

Sidney and Myfanwy Astill came from Wrexham, Wales in 1924 with a family of four children, Sid Jr., Jack, Clara and Maude. They purchased the SE ½-36-59-27-W4 farm 1 mile west and half a mile south of Westlock and moved there in March 1925. Two children were born in Westlock, Mary and Lilian.

My mother's cousin Ed Williams had come to Clyde earlier and wrote back to Wales of what a vast and wonderful place Canada was. Alberta was bright



Astill family. Fanny, Sis, Clara, Lilian and Mary.

and sunny, and Ed urged my folks to come over. They decided to come and booked a passage on a ship that sailed for Canada. Of course, Ed had forgotten to mention how cold the winters were in Alberta. My parents were very disappointed with the cold weather and hardship, they longed to go back to Wales. However with very little money and the depression of the thirties upon them, they made the best of what they had.

Sid was an Army man in Wales, joining at an early age of eighteen. In the 1914-1918 war, he was a Quarter-Master Sergeant with the Welsh Regiment. After the war he joined the Wrexham Police force and worked there until 1924. When the second World War broke out, Sid enlisted as a Veteran Guard and was stationed at the Prisoners of War camps in Lethbridge and in other camps in B.C. and Alberta, guarding the German prisoners. Sid made many trips across the ocean taking the prisoners home and was able to visit his relations in England.

In 1947, my parents sold the land to Mike Popko and moved to Grande Prairie. Sid was employed at McGavin's Bakery for eighteen years. Upon retiring in 1966 they moved back to Edmonton to be closer to the family. Sid passed away in 1973 at the age of 85.

Sid Jr. enlisted in the Army with the Winnipeg Rifles and was reported missing in action. However, after some time he was reported wounded and in hospital so we were thankful for that news. Sid married a Welsh lassie from Ponoka and was employed at the Ponoka Mental Hospital. Sid passed away at the age of 51 from cancer. Jack married Ann Primeau of Dapp and they farmed the home place. They also lived in Barrhead and in Edmonton. Jack also passed away from cancer at the age 53.

Clara married John Ens who passed away from Polio in 1946. She then married Ernie Whitehead of Dapp and they later moved to Edmonton where Clara still resides. Maude Purdy lives in Breton, Alberta and she is the Post Mistress there. Lilian McGillivery lives in Chilliwack B.C. and has a family of 9 children. Mary Properzi lives in the Naples District. Mary and her husband John and family were honored with the 1981 Outstanding Farm Family Award for the Barrhead area.

Myfanwy Astill is living in Edmonton and, at the age of 92, is still able to care for all her own needs. She still enjoys being able to cook one of her wonderful meals for the many visitors she has. She is now the proud grandmother of 31 grandchildren and 58 great-grandchildren.

All the family have done well with their chosen endeavors and in 1982 Clara fulfilled one of Mom's dreams of 58 years ago and visited her birth place in Wrexham, Wales.

## **History of the Charles Bacon Family of Springfield School District by Marjorie Bacon**

In 1917 Charles W. Bacon, his wife Hattie, daughters Mildred and Grace and sons Charles W., Walter C., and Arnold M. arrived at their farm in Legal, the SE¼ 7-58-25 W4. This was previously owned by Louis L'Abbe.



Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Bacon.

After four years of intensive mixed farming, Charles Sr. suffered a severe fall from the barn and was a hopeless invalid for fifteen years, until his death in 1937. Mrs. Bacon died in 1924. Daughter Grace passed away during the 'flu' epidemic of 1918.

Charles W. Bacon continued on the farm until 1949. Walter Bacon continued farming on the south half until 1941.

Mildred Bacon married William Jorgenson, a grain buyer from Bon Accord.

Charles married Marjorie Critchlow in 1928, and Walter married Simone Roch from Westlock in 1931. Arnold married Margaret Francis in 1935.

Mildred passed away in 1980 leaving her husband, Bill, and six children, all of Nelson, B.C.

In 1978 Charles passed away, leaving his wife Marjorie and two sons who live in Edmonton.





Charlie Bacon (in chaps) 1928 or 1929. Barn in background is the one Charlie Bacon Sr., fell from and became an invalid.

Simone became a widow by the passing of Walter in 1976. She and her four sons now reside in Kamloops, B.C.

Arnold and Margaret are still living in Edmonton with their son and daughter.

Everyone will remember Charlie and Marjorie for their involvement in sports. Charlie had a piece of his land cleared and made into a ball diamond. It was the home of the Springfield team. Their eldest son, Bud, was later a pitcher, and pitched for the Vimy Team and later for an Edmonton team.

### Charles Baker Family

At family gatherings in his later years, Charles Baker, born December 9, 1886 would delight in reminiscing about his early life near Moira, Ontario.

Charles was the fourth generation of the Baker family, of which he was a member to have lived in



Family celebration — 1978. Front row, L to R: Bill and Margaret Conn, Charles, Geneva, Donald and Dorothy Baker, Christopher Wellings, Jennifer Hornby. Second row: David and Kathy Lent with Neil, Charlene Wellings, Kirsten Conn, Dianna Rice, Irene Hornby, Linda and David Baker. Back row: Richard and Patricia Wilburn, Robert Conn, Doug Conn, Michael Wellings, Brian Baker, Bernie Hornby with Graeme, Stephen Baker.

Canada and he was one of the first generation to settle in the west.

In the 17th century, the Bakers were members of the Society of Friends who lived in the village of Islington some miles from London, England. In 1740, one William Baker moved from there to Garrophilum, Ireland and married Ann Thompson on March 12, 1762.

Their third son, Samuel chartered a vessel in 1819 and with his whole family, servants and possessions set out from Ireland for Canada and settled at Hollowell, Prince Edward County, Ontario.

Samual Baker and his wife had eleven children — only two of them born in Canada. The sixth child, Thomas, born November 22, 1812 was married to Harriet Swetnam in 1838. There were seven children in this family; the second son was William Samual born in 1845.

William married Sarah Ann Ostrom and this couple had eight children, of whom Charles was the youngest son. All of Charles' brothers and sisters came west to settle and make their homes in Alberta.

Charles first came to Alberta in 1905 as harvest help of the harvest excursions from Ontario. He worked for a farmer near Granum that fall. He returned to Ontario and enrolled at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana — training to be a minister. During one of his summer holidays, he sold maps and atlases on a door-to-door basis to make enough to help him continue his education.

But a young lady school teacher captured his heart and he and Geneva Heagy were married at Claypool, Indiana on December 1913. He got a job with General Electric in Fort Wayne, Indiana winding electric motors and he learned a good deal about electrical wiring — a very useful skill. Their only son, Donald, was born there in 1914.

The little family moved in 1916 to Vancouver where Charles had a job with British Columbia Elec-



Charles and Geneva Baker on their 65th Wedding Anniversary, 1978. Margaret and Donald in back.

tric. Margaret, the only daughter, was born there in 1918.

The next move was to Edmonton, about 1919, where Charles' parents were now living on 124 Street — and three generations lived in the same house until April, 1922 when Charles, Geneva and family moved to a bush homestead in the Hazel Bluff district. They rented a homesteaders shack while they built a frame house that was later enlarged and remodelled and is today the house on the acreage owned by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Jack.

The farm inventory dated January 1, 1923 shows that 24 acres had been broken, a drainage ditch dug by hand and with horses and slip to drain the lake on the north east corner of the quarter. The house was shingled and had windows in but there was no flooring, no chimney, no stairs and no well yet.

Livestock consisted of one purebred Shorthorn bull, three horses, six ready-to-market pigs, one red sow and seven young pigs. There were six old hens, thirty-two pullets and two white Wyandotte roosters.

The Model T Ford car, valued at \$200.00, was used to take the family to Hazel Bluff Church on Sunday and to Westlock for business and groceries at Don Stanton's Red and White store on what is now 107 Street.

The years that followed were very busy ones on the farm and in the community. Charles was president of the Community Club, trustee and later chairman of Hazel Bluff School Board, and he was active on various church boards at Hazel Bluff. He and Geneva and the family were early and long-time supporters and exhibitors of the Westlock Summer Fair. Geneva boarded the school teacher during her first year here and continued to do this from time to time until 1946.

Charles and Geneva enjoyed gardening very much, and working together they planned and cared for a beautiful yard with a very pleasing variety of flowers which they enjoyed sharing with anyone.

They moved to an apartment in Westlock in 1978 and then to Pembina Lodge in 1981. Charles died October 18, 1981. Geneva continues to live at the Lodge and enjoys good health.

Donald went to school at Hazel Bluff and Westlock High school and took a two year course-in-one at Vermilion School of Agriculture. He married Dorothy Burchett in December 1942, bought some land and continues to farm where he built his house and buildings. They have four children: David, now principal of Westlock Elementary School; Irene (Hornby) of Fox Creek, public health nurse; Cathryn (Lent) of Westlock, medical laboratory staff at the Immaculata Hospital and Brian, teaching at Camrose. There are six grandchildren.

Margaret married William Conn and lives now in Kelowna, B.C. They have four children: Charlene (Wellings), Patricia (Wilburn), Dr. Douglas, all of Vancouver, and Dr. Robert of Edmonton. There are four grandchildren.

### **William Edward Baker**

In the summer of 1905, William Edward Baker came from Sterling, Ontario, to Edmonton with his young bride, Evelyn. He worked as a carpenter building houses and working on elevators. In 1907 he squatted on NW ¼ section 9, 60, R27 W of 4. When he was away working on elevators someone filed on his quarter so he had to look for another location. In 1909 he filed on NW ¼, 9, 59, 27, W4 and moved his family there in 1910. He built a frame house and large barn using lumber from a sawmill on the same section.



The Bakers fishing at Lac la Nonne, 1920. Edward, Evelyn and Charles.

It was hard, slow work clearing the land with an axe. There were plenty of mosquitoes and flies during the short summer season.

Ed Baker could always find time to help in community work in such activities as helping neighbors build their farm buildings to working on roads with a home made grader. Many homesteaders helped each other, no one locked the door then.

Later he bought more land and moved to NE-13-59-1-W-5 where a home was built. He helped in the building of the new school, two and a half miles away, where all his family got their grade school education. In order to get supplies, they travelled to Clyde with a team of horses until 1913 when the railway came to Westlock.

In 1921, Ed Baker was drowned in a lake near Innisfree and the farm was taken over by the sons.

Now a grandson, Arthur farms the land.

### **The Floyd G Baldwin Family** by Winona Berry

Floyd Baldwin was born in 1890 in Grand Forks County, North Dakota. He came to Edmonton with



his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Baldwin in 1903. He lived in Edmonton with his uncle Jack Baldwin — coming to the Edison District at the age of 14 in 1904. He attended school at Edison for awhile and then was taking his place as a man at age 16.

Later he married Clara Tracy and they had six children, Willmet, Winona, Ruth and Mildred (and a boy and a girl who died in infancy).

Mom and Dad, when first married, lived in a log and frame house that was Grandpa Tracy's when he first came to the district. Willmet and I were born in this house. Grandpa Tracy had built a nice white house a little farther down the road on the same quarter.

Grandpa and Grandma moved to Westlock in 1918. Dad and Mom moved down to the white house,



Mrs. Clara Baldwin (nee Tracy).

there Ruth was born in 1919. Then in the fall of 1919 or early spring of 1920, Dad bought a quarter section of land from his Uncle Jack Baldwin and we moved to our own home.

There was much to be done to the house and Willmet and I thinking we were helping would go up to the house; there we tore much of the paper from the walls, so it made a lot more work for Dad and Mom re-papering the walls.

Willmet and I attended school on the Duke of Sutherland farm until Clover Valley was ready for teacher and pupils. I do not remember the names of my first teachers. Mildred was born in 1926 and also went to Clover Valley School.

We took our schooling up to Grade 9 in Clover Valley. Russell Sterling was our last teacher. Extra classes were held Saturdays by Rita Sterling who had taught there the year before. We all completed our education at Westlock.

After farming for quite a few years, Dad bought property in Westlock and they left the farm in 1942. They lived in a machine shed from the farm until the house was completed. Dad worked at carpentry with Mr. Dieffenbaugh. He bought a motorcycle and they had a few long trips on it. Later a small car and trailer replaced the motorcycle. Dad and Mom had a small store in the west end of Westlock, which they still owned when Dad passed away in 1956. Willmet passed away in 1958. There were fourteen grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren. Mom passed away in 1965. Mildred in 1979 and Ruth in Jan. 1983.

## **Erwin and Julia Bannister**

**by Julia W. Bannister**

Erwin and I were married in the Sunniebend Hall on August 15, 1944. We had the Hall decorated with flowers. Rev. Daynard came from Jarvie to marry us, and his wife played the piano. We had our wedding supper at my folks home in Sunniebend.

Erwin had bought his parents farm that spring and my Dad had given us a cow and a calf to add to our herd of nine, but hogs were our main crop the first years. At threshing time Erwin drove a team on the threshing crew for Stanley Allen. I was chore girl at home. Mrs. Bill (Bella) Tennant kindly offered to cook for the threshers.

In the winter, Erwin went to the bush at Vega and Slave Lake to get out posts, and logs to be sawed into lumber the next summer. We bought a sawmill from Carl Antonson. This lumber was later planed and used for building our farm buildings.

We purchased our first tractor in 1946, a model "R" Minneapolis-Moline. The horse machinery was either converted or added to the junk pile, any good iron to be used later to weld with or fix a break. In 1947 Erwin bought a second-hand Cockshutt No. 7 Combine at St. Paul and towed it home with the tractor. New machinery was very scarce after the war. In 1955 we bought an Allis Chalmers silage harvester and so got into cattle in a bigger way. We hauled silage with wagons. Hugh Busby, with his caterpillar tractor, pushed out a trench silo for us, in a side hill. The silage was pulled out of the wagon with a tractor

and then packed with the same tractor. We were a four-man team; Dennis, our oldest son, on the chopper, Erwin in the pit, myself on one tractor, hauling, and a neighbor or lad, (later our youngest son, Jim) hauling with the other tractor. There was invariably one gate post that needed replacing after silage time! We put up silage in this manner for twenty years. The cattle were fed silage, with chop on top, in bunks, and straw for dry feed and bedding. Small calves were given some hay in addition.



Eileen Scott (bridesmaid), Julia Scott (bride), Erwin Bannister (groom), Frank Plain (best man). Wedding August 15, 1944.

We lived in the old house, built by Mr. Kidney, for nine years. The new house was built with lumber we had sawed and planed. Dennis lives there now.

Our children attended school in Westlock as Riverdale was centralized in 1951. Joan Koehler (up the road) and Dennis walked two miles from the Letts Ferry in good weather. We took turns at taking them down in the mornings. The ferryman, Fred Baxandall, rowed them over the river in the boat, to catch the bus to Westlock. Steve Berezan was the bus driver. We met this bus for eight years until we had a smaller feeder bus come past our door. Gene Manton (Clesson) drove this bus which met the Linaria High School bus, driven by Mark Baggot, at Yurkewich's corner and then in to Westlock by way of Rossington bridge.

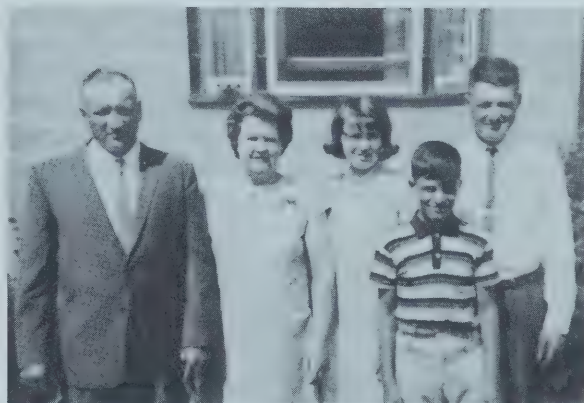
As the river posed a barrier, our social life was at Pembina Heights, Linaria and Sunniebend. In earlier years we played bridge at Jack Treiglaff's. We had many happy evenings with the Roy Hilliards, Jack Treiglaff, Everett Durlings and Mike Hoblaks. Our children played games and usually were asleep at going home time. We were active in church and U.C.W. at Sunniebend and later, at Linaria, until they were closed down also. The cause of the closing of the rural churches was the dwindling population.

### **Our Children:** Dennis, our oldest son.

Dennis attended school at Westlock. For fifteen years he farmed with us on our farm. In 1975, Dennis moved to Yorkton, Sask., where he worked for Beaver Lumber, pre-fabricating homes. In 1976 he moved to Saskatoon, where he worked in a truss factory. He took a night course in blueprint reading. In 1977 he moved back to Westlock to work in the construction business — building houses, basements and farm buildings, which he is enjoying doing. Dennis played fastball with the Linaria Outlaws, and he curls in Westlock each winter.

Judy; our daughter.

Judy attended both grade school and high school



Erwin Bannister family. Julia, Judy, Dennis and Jim. 1968.

in Westlock. She attended the University of Alberta for four years and graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Education. In 1971, Judy and David W. Beamish from Jarvie, were married. Judy taught school at Fawcett and Clyde — driving each day from their farm. David was teaching at Jarvie. In May, 1973, we were saddened to lose Judy from kidney failure.

Jim; our youngest son.

Jim attended grade school and high school in Westlock. He moved to Edmonton to work. In the years 1978-1980, Jim attended Grant McEwan College, taking music and dancing — ballet and jazz. For several years he worked on week-ends with Mad Hatter Disco. He is presently driving a taxi in Edmonton, until the economy improves. He played Pee-wee and Bantam hockey in Linaria with Bob Walker as coach; two years of midget hockey with Steve Swick as coach. They won the Provincial Championship for Northern Alberta in 1972. He also played fastball with the Linaria outlaws.

We have had a busy, healthy life, with wonderful neighbors. In 1976 we had an auction sale. We rent the land to Busby and Walker and are enjoying our retirement in Westlock.



## Orville Bannister

by Julia W. Bannister (wife of Erwin)

Orville Bannister was born in 1890, Leta in 1891, in Ontario. Orville came to Saskatchewan in 1908 to homestead there. In 1914 Leta came out as a bride. They raised four children; Erwin, Morgan, and twin girls Helen and Eleanor. In 1935 they moved to Czar, Alberta where they stayed for three summers. It was so dry that the government declared Czar a depressed area and assisted farmers to move north.

In October 1937, they moved to the Kidney farm, the S½ 27-60-1 W5. Eleanor attended school at Riverdale, riding horseback. Mr. Fletcher Johnson was the ferryman and took the children across the river with either boat or ferry.

Erwin, Morgan and Mr. Jameison cleared the land of trees for fire wood. Mr. Jim Christopher helped to pull stumps and willow clumps with horses the next summer. Nelson Letts broke the land with a steel-wheeled tractor. In 1938 the swamp was on fire, so that cleared most of the back quarter, but it was always low afterwards and very wet most years. We now have a drainage ditch to the river, which keeps the water moving. The ashes and fog were terrible that fall. Men got lost in fields and had to rely on sound to be able to find the threshing machine. Many a bundle rack got tipped over, too.

In 1941 George Facey worked for Orville for two years for Three Hundred Dollars a year, plus room and board. He would go by horseback to Shorty Belcourt's (3½ miles west) and cut wood all day. Shorty would give him soup or tea to take with his sandwiches. Erwin and George hauled home the nine loads (with seven-foot bunks) piled so high that their feet were above the horses' backs. Shorty got a dollar for each load hauled. Later, the neighbours got together a wood-sawing bee to cut the trees into firewood. They usually picked a warm day in early spring.

Morgan joined the army and went overseas to Italy and Holland. He married Myrtle Cropley.

In November 1943, Helen was married to Leslie Parsons in their house and Rev. Race came from Westlock to marry them. Orville decided to try his hand at auctioneering. Erwin rented the farm in 1943, and in January 1944 he bought the farm. Orville suffered a mild stroke and he and Leta retired to Edmonton. Eleanor drove trucks fuelling airplanes, and also drove sightseeing buses at Jasper during the war. She is married to Peter Cherniawski. Erwin married Julia Bannister in August 1944.

Orville died in 1950. Leta lives at Comox, B.C.

## Baxandall Family

In 1882 Joseph Baxandall arrived in North Amer-

ica from Yorkshire England at the age of 16 years. He lived for a few years in the U.S.A. before coming to Canada in 1890. He worked the coal boats from Nanaimo to Vancouver and later for the Valley Dairy Farms in Vancouver. In 1892 he wished to see more of the west and settled in Edmonton at the time when you crossed the North Saskatchewan River by ferry to get from one side to the other. It was at this time that Joe met and married Florence Northcote, who was born in 1879 at Christchurch, New Zealand.



Park Baxandall, Evaline Baxandall and Esther Zeise.

After farming there until 1907, the family then moved to Saulteaux near Manville, Alberta, where he farmed and was the local postmaster. Four years later they moved to his farm six miles south of Vegreville which his grandson Edward farms to the present time. With a pioneer spirit since a young lad, it was off to Westlock in 1920 where he purchased the Dave Evans farm; (N.E.-34-59-27-W of 4th) three miles west of Westlock. The farm is "kitty corner" to the Westlock Golf Course, through which the Wabash Creek runs and was named such by the Evans family. In 1922 the Baxandall's youngest son Percy was born at this farm and remained living there until 1965 when he and his wife, the former Helen deRapard and their seven children moved to Campbell River on Vancouver Island. Joseph Sr. and wife Florence lived on this farm until she passed away in 1943 at the age of 64 years and he in 1949 at the age of 83 years.

Percy remembers as a boy when the eighty acres of land across the road from his father's farm was bought in February 1936 from the Bruder Estate in Eastern Canada for the amount of four hundred dollars. Mr. D. M. Torrie loaned the Golf Society the money to buy the property of the present Golf Course and Joseph Baxandall Sr. purchased the other eighty





Max Zeise with dog "Sport" and horse "Jenny."

acres of the quarter section. Some of the members names that he can recall are; Graham Walker, Father Rooney, Ivan Sutherland, Ted Leake, Dr. L. Kickham, Harry Fraser, D. M. Torrie and Joe Renaud. Two members were responsible per fairway to see that it was brushed and cleared; some of the local Indians were contracted to do the brushing. Mr. Ernie Munsterman Sr., a local road builder donated his time and heavy equipment to do a lot of the pushing of stumps and leveling of land for the fairways. As a boy of fourteen, Percy enjoyed being the waterboy and helping Father Rooney and Ivan Sutherland sharpen their axes because they did the hand-brushing themselves of the original Number One fairway along the highway. They told Percy, "You are doing a good job, we will give you a life membership some day."

In 1948 and 1949, Percy broke the remaining land on the east side of the Wabash Creek in order to make additional fairways. In the late 1930's the Society built a cable suspension foot-bridge across the creek for the golfers which was engineered by Ted Leake and remained in use for many years. When Percy became president of the Golf Club in 1954, the club decided they should have a Club House, so the present one was built with donated labour and expertise.

The Braughton Property next to the Bank of Montreal on main street in Westlock was purchased by Percy in 1944 and after being re-designed and modernized; Baxy's Cafe was opened for business.

In later years Edgar's Drugs was built in its place and is now occupied by I.D.A. Pharmacy.

Percy and Helen were active in many community organizations; she in the Cubs, Scouts and past president of the Kinette Club and Hospital Auxiliary and president of the Home and School Association in 1962-63. Percy was an active Kinsmen member and president of the local Farmers Union and the Westlock Flying Club, receiving his pilot's license in 1950 and remained an active member until he left in 1965. He also was president of the Senior Hockey Club and was playing for the Westlock Wolves when they took the Provincial B Cup in League 22, 1944-45 season for Alberta. In 1960 he was president of the Agriculture Society, the same organization that his mother in earlier years was well known for entering her homemade bread and held the distinction on continually receiving first prize for many years in the Food Fair Booth.

Percy farmed and did custom land-breaking and clearing in the area for many years but was interested in Real Estate and opened his Insurance and Real Estate Office in 1958 which he operated until he left the Westlock area in 1965.

Some of Joseph and Florence's family still reside in the area while others moved away through the years. Joseph Jr. and his wife, the former Ida Vadheim farmed across from the Hazel Bluff Church until moving to Vegreville in 1942. John and his wife, the former Avis Parsons farmed in Pickardville and Pibroch districts where they were well known and active until they retired to Vancouver Island and live near their two children. Parkison and his wife, the former Maria Zeise also farmed in Pibroch district until his death in 1937; two sons, Donald and Gordon still live in the area. George while employed at the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool lived in Westlock till he and his wife retired in Barrhead. Fred and his wife, the former Jean Reid farmed in the Pibroch and Rossington districts but many people remember Fred as the "Ferry Man" at the Pembina Ferry Crossing; they are now retired in Barrhead.

### Donald Baxandall Family

I was born in Westlock on October 24, 1923 and lived south-west of Westlock until the fall of 1929, when the family moved to Sunniebend. We lived there until my father died on November 12, 1937.

During the summer of 1938 we moved back to Westlock and I started school there that fall. I had previously attended school at Sunniebend and was in grade three when I left there. My school work was very poor, and I could scarcely read, so I was put back into grade two. I do not remember the name of





Overland bug, 1928. John Baxandall



Joe Baxandall's threshing outfit, about 1928. Dave Finnigan (spike pitcher), Mr. Britcher pitching bundles. Tom Bunce's rack and horses.

the teacher I had at the time, but I think she must have felt sorry for me as she spent a lot of her time giving me special lessons to help me along. Sometimes she even took me home with her after school, to try to teach me to read. It was a great help, because I had very little trouble with my lessons after that year.

We didn't live in Westlock very long, but moved to Pibroch in the fall of 1939. Then in the winter of 1942 we moved to Rochester. I came back to live in Westlock in 1949 and worked for my uncle, Percy Baxandall.



John Baxandall starting an old Titan tractor, 1924.

In the fall of 1950 I joined the Westlock Flying Club and took pilot training at the airport in the Whissel subdivision. I got my pilot's licence in 1951.

On November 7, 1964, Viola O'Brien and I were married in the Westlock United Church. We have a family of three children.

My wife, Viola, was born in Westlock January 29, 1939, the first of seven children born to Bill and Martha O'Brien, who live at Westlock.

Viola started school at Prosperous, then went on to finish her schooling in Westlock. She studied to become a Lab and X-ray technician in Edmonton, and on completion of the course, she got a job at the Immaculata Hospital in Westlock where she worked for seven years. She left there in the spring of 1965 to become a mother and homemaker on the farm at Rochester.

### The Fred Baxandall Family by Fred Baxandall

How we came to move to Westlock — a farmer by the name of Dios Smith advertised in an Edmonton paper that he wanted to borrow some money on his farm. Dad saw the advertisement, so he made a trip to Westlock to look at the farm. He loaned Dios the money. When he came back to Vegreville he was very pleased with the Westlock district; he said Westlock was a very beautiful farming district with crops and gardens second to none; a farming community with a great future. He was right. Westlock has since become one of the best farming areas in Alberta.



Fred and Jean Baxandall with their two daughters Twyla and Marilyn.

Dad made another trip to Westlock in the fall of the same year. In 1920 he bought Dave Evans' home-  
stead. This land was located three miles west of Westlock; the price was \$5000.00, cash. This was

considered a big price for a quarter section of land in those days. Our family moved to Westlock in November, 1920. We came to Clyde by train and from Clyde to the farm by Marshall's model T Ford stage. Charlie Marshall was the driver. Dad had loaded a box car with our household effects, a milk cow and some chickens which came to Westlock by rail. He hired a Mr. A. P. Bruder to move the equipment to the farm by team and sleighs.

Not much land was broken on this farm, possibly 35 acres. Dad needed more land under cultivation so he hired some Indians from Lac Ste. Anne reserve to brush and burn and make ready for the breaking plow. The breaking was done by two Titan tractors — Clesson brothers and Mr. Legasse and his son Louis.

Early threshermen were Alf Adkins with his wooden threshing machine and Titan tractor; Wilbur Whiteman; then my brother Joe bought an outfit and did the threshing until Dad retired. Our farming was done with horses. I lived on this farm till 1938.

There were ten children in our family, nine boys and one girl. My sister and five of my brothers have passed away — Smith and Bill in 1919 and 1920 during the Spanish flu epidemic, Park in 1937, Susan in 1970, Joe about 1975 and George in 1979. There are four boys left: John and Percy who live at Campbell River, B.C.; Verdun lives in Westlock and myself (Fred). My wife Jean and I live in Barrhead.

Mother passed away on December 4, 1943 and Dad on December 5, 1949. They are both buried in Westlock Cemetery.



Twyla and Marilyn Baxandall aged 4 and 5.

I married Jean Reid of Westlock in 1936 and we have two daughters, Twyla and Marilyn, who received their education at Riverdale School until it closed. They rode saddle horses to school here while the school was operating, then they went by bus to Westlock where they completed their education.

Twyla was employed in office work for some years at Calgary. She was married there and has a family of four children, three girls and a boy. She now makes her home in Edmonton.

After graduation, Marilyn joined the Air Force. She spent the next seven years in Canada, France, and Germany as a radar operator. She was married in Metz, France, to an airman and they have a family of two boys and a girl. She makes her home at St. Albert.

We farmed at Pibroch, near the Pembina River, for six years. Prices were very poor — oats, seven cents a bushel; barley, twelve cents and wheat about forty cents. Special grade cream was \$3.25 for a five gallon can. Hogs sold at about \$12 for a 200 lb. market hog.

We stayed on the farm until the 1944 flood on the Pembina River. We lost everything, as there was two feet of water in the house; this was the shallowest place on the farm!

Later, we farmed for two years at Westlock, eight years at Rossington, then I operated the Letts Ferry for twelve years. I operated the last ferry on the Pembina River; it was closed in 1965. We bought a farm south of Whitecourt.

I operated the Rosevear Ferry on the McLeod River east of Edson, operated the Blue Ridge Ferry on the Athabasca River east of Whitecourt for three years, then bought a half-section of land at Topland. Finally we bought a home in Barrhead where we are now retired. My hobbies are fishing and hunting.

## The Baxandall Roots

Joseph Baxandall III, who was better known as Old Joe of Westlock, by his many friends, left Oakworth, Yorkshire County, England in the year of 1882, for the U.S.A. and greener pastures.

Born to Joseph Baxandall II, who was a Surveyor, and Susanah Baxandall (nee Greenwood), in 1866, he decided at a very young age, that driving a Canal Horse in Oakworth, England, was not his dream of a life long career, and after six months on the job, at the age of 16 years, on the 24th day of July, 1882, he packed all his early belongings in an old tin suitcase, and hailed a ship for North America.

Old Joe, worked on a farm for his Uncle Willie for a few years in Arlington, Virginia, but being adventurous and ambitious, moved on. He arrived in Edmonton, Alberta, North West Territory, in the





Verdun, Janet and son Dale Baxandall, on their way to the 1952 Barrhead Stampede in their 1922 model T Ford.

Spring of 1892, where he met and married Florence Northcote, three years later.

Florence was born in Christchurch, New Zealand, and as a small child moved to Edmonton, along with her surveyor father, John Northcote, and her mother, Annie Northcote (nee Ayers), where she lived until she married Old Joe.

The newlyweds continued to homestead Joe's land in the Strathcona District until 1903, when they purchased land near Mannville, Alberta. Once again Old Joe packed up his earthly belongings, his wife Florence, and five children, Smith, Joseph IV, Parkinson, Susanah and William, and off they went to Sultux, where they farmed and operated the first Post Office for the district in their home.

Old Joe, becoming somewhat of a wheeler and dealer by this time spotted some land in the Vegreville district, and off they went to farm the lush valley overlooking the Vermillion River. Joe had built a new home on a high hill, where you could see the Valley for miles around, and settled in farming for the next ten years, when they were blessed with four more sons, John, George, Fred and Verdun. However, being the ambitious man he was, and the love of the challenge of building up homesteads, and in the tragedy of losing his son, William at the age of 17 years, decided once again to look for greener pastures and yet another challenge; moved his family to Bellingham, Washington, U.S.A., where tragedy struck once again in the loss of their eldest son, Smith, who had died at the age of 20 years, of the 1918 influenza, as did his brother, William, a few months before him.

Finding the opportunities in the U.S.A. were not as great as they were in Canada, Old Joe set out once again for Alberta, and in the early part of 1920 settled on a homestead, the N.E. 34-59-27-W.4th, three miles west of Westlock, bringing with him many new ideas, which helped the homesteaders tremendously.

As well as introducing the first registered Yorkshire hogs to the district, Joe had introduced the first Carter Disc Grain Cleaner, in the early 1920's, especially designed to separate wild oats from wheat, which kept the Baxandall boys busy cleaning seed wheat for most of the farmers in the district from 1926 to 1947, when Joseph Baxandall IV, Jr., moved to the Vegreville homestead, taking the Carter Disc Cleaner with him, where it is still occasionally used by Old Joe's grandsons.



Verdun and Jean Baxandall on their 30th Wedding Anniversary.

Once again the stork hovered over the Baxandall home, and on March 22, 1922, a child was born, Percy (Puss), the ninth son, and the final addition to the Joseph Baxandall III, family.

Joe continued to live on the Westlock farm along with his wife, Florence and family, growing grain, raising cattle and hogs, and wheeling and dealing in Real Estate and his Mortgage Company.

Being somewhat of a philosopher, one of Old Joe's favourite sayings, in his heavy Yorkshire accent was: "When young lad, ye work for money and keep it, and when ye get old money will work and keep ye".

Among his many virtues, Old Joe would take a load of grain during the dirty thirties to the Apple

Blossom Mill in Edmonton and have it ground into flour and Sonny Boy Cereal, donating flour and cereal to the hard bitten families in the neighbourhood, and to families as far away as Fort Assiniboine.

Although Joe was an Anglican, and his brother John, a Baptist Minister, he sent his family for Sunday School Classes to the Hazel Bluff United Church and took them to the Anglican Church services in Westlock, which were held once a month. He was a great personal friend of the late Monseigneur Rooney, who was a frequent visitor at the Baxandall home. Several years after Joe's passing, the author was in conversation with the late Monseigneur Rooney, reminiscing one day, when the Monseigneur, with a sad look in his eye said: "I have missed my friend, Old Joe all these years, for a wiser, finer man, I have never met".

Verdun, second youngest son of Joseph Baxandall, was born in 1916, the year of, and named after the battle of Verdun, in memory of his Uncle Clifford Baxandall, brother to Old Joe, who was killed in action, and died a hero in the Great Battle during the First World War.

Born in Vegreville, Verdun moved to Westlock at the age of three years, and has many recollections of his place of birth, and the early years on the Westlock homestead, of the excitement at the Baxandall home in Winter and early Spring, when the farm folks would line up with teams of horses pulling sleighs and wagons full of grain to be cleaned for shipment and for seed.



Verdun and Janet Baxandall. Janet shot one of the biggest moose to come out of Fort Assiniboine in 1965.

It was a real treat and many a laugh for the younger Baxandall boys to just hang around the grain cleaning shed, and listen to the tales of folks like Billy McKibben, Sam and Bob Weir, Sandford Sawyer, Ernie Munsterman, the Busbys', Newel Moulton, Harry Curlett, and many others, coming from distances as far away as the Woodmore, Rossington and Manola areas, over the heavily snowed and muddy roads to get their grain cleaned, occasionally staying overnight. Mother Baxandall, being an excellent cook, always had room for one more at her dining room table, and always an extra bed.

Wild life in the early years was plentiful throughout the country, and the migrating of birds was a sight to behold in the Spring and Fall, when wild ducks and geese would turn the skies black, crossing over the Westlock area.

Prairie chickens were seen everywhere along the roadside, and seemed to be rather tame, and easily obtained for the dinner table, so most farm folks were well supplied with wild meat and fowl throughout the year, including Mr. Brown, who lived out west of Town, and drove the school bus. Jim carried a shot gun on his bus every day, and would bag himself a chicken or two on the way to school. "Kids, that's my dinner" he'd say.

Fish were abundant in the Wabash Creek, which provided many of the local kids with much of their entertainment during the Spring of the year, fishing for Jackfish and Goldeye. As Summer came on and the run of fish was over, the Wabash was once again a centre of entertainment for Town and Country kids, when they gathered at the old swimming hole, building high diving boards for the big boys and girls, and low diving boards for the smaller children.

During the hot weather in July and August, you could hear fun and laughter of thirty or forty kids, late into the evening from the old swimming hole, which is now part of the Westlock Golf Course.

As Telephones and Televisions were virtually unheard of in the early years, and radios a rare commodity, with only Con Whist, being fortunate enough to own a receiver set; much of the Winter entertainment was provided by visiting our neighbour and listening to the radio, which was one of the great wonders of time, a young fellow could experience. The older folks listened with awe and disbelief, feeling sure that someone was hiding behind that machine doing the talking.

Dancing to the toe tapping tunes of the local band, lead by Gladys Olsen, who played the piano, and the three Baxandall boys, Joe on the accordion, John on the Tenor Banjo, and George on the Violin, became another source of entertainment. As the



dances were held at the Hazel Bluff School and Hall, Pibroch and Sunny Bank, the main mode of transportation was sleighs, cutters, wagons, horseback, and the odd Model T Ford.

The dances were old time and hard time, the tickets were 25¢ for gents, and the ladies who brought lunch got in free. Occasionally a box social was held, and the ladies would bring beautifully decorated lunch boxes, which were auctioned off and went to the highest bidder, sometimes for as much as 75¢. The gents would then open the lunch box to the aroma of homemade bread, fried chicken, and freshly baked apple pies, and look for the name of their luncheon partner, which was usually in the box. Many a romance started over apple pie.

The band at times played until three or four o'clock in the morning, and were paid by a silver collection for overtime, above the usual fee of \$10.00 an evening, playing from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., in the morning.

The Winters were long and cold in the dirty thirties, and life was hard, with hardly enough money around to feed the children of the large families in those days. Most of the cars were abandoned or turned into horse drawn vehicles, and gas became a glut on the market. People could not afford the cost of license plates.

Men and teenage boys from all walks of life scurried to and from, hitching and riding freight trains looking for work.

Farm folks were a little more fortunate than their City brothers, in as much as they could grow a garden and have a few head of cattle for milk, cream, butter, cheese and beef, as well as a few hogs for pork, and laying hens for eggs, and the odd hen for the roasting pan.

The whole family shared the responsibility of the chores around the farm, and the older boys would do whatever jobs they could get around the neighbourhood.

Verdun, adapting many of his father's traits and virtues, became a jack of all trades, and in the Winter of 1933, at the age of seventeen, was privileged enough to get a job at Ten Dollars a month, with a team of horses and sleigh, transporting some of the school children, who lived on side roads, which were drifted in by snow and impossible to most vehicles, to the base line, (now Highway 18) where the school bus would pick up the children and take them to school in Westlock.

On about the 15th of March that year, a strong chinook wind blew in from the South West, rolling snow balls up to two feet in diameter, covering approximately fifty acres of land on the East slope of the Hazel Bluff hill across from the Church. It was

the land of paradise for children building snowmen without too much effort, leaving the hillside looking like a battlefield of little white soldiers from Outer Space.

Remembering his father's philosophy, Verdun saved his money and made it work for him, investing in some beef cattle at Ten Dollars per head, was soon in business for himself. After grain feeding the cattle for a spell, he would butcher a steer and deliver beef throughout the Town and Country, at Five Cents a pound for the cheaper cuts, and as high as Ten Cents a pound for prime cuts, averaging about Ten Dollars, a day's profit, which was a good wage in those days.

The economy being bad, and beef selling three to four cents a pound higher in the downtown butcher shops, he soon established a weekly route, with a lot of good customers. Some of the volume buyers were folks with large families, Mr. Robins, better known as old Cock Robins, by the younger generations, had the largest family in the district, several of them were boys, so it took a lot of beef to accommodate those appetites. Dick Green, out at Hazel Bluff had a family of thirteen children, and was always a good customer, and Charlie Parsons with his family of twelve welcomed a bargain of good beef. Walter Armstrong, Jim and George Adkins, Andy Smith, and many other old timers were weekly customers.

Some of the folks paid cash, others paid on account whenever they could, and then there were some others, more wealthy farmers, who never paid at all.

There were families with eight to ten children, who were so poor, they could never buy beef, and didn't have the money to buy shells for a gun to hunt with, had nothing more than potatoes and turnips to feed their children with. Knowing their plight, Verdun made a point of stopping at their homes weekly, with stewing meat, soup bones, and a roast of beef, along with flour and sugar, and a loaf or two of homemade bread, that he had gotten by raiding his mother's pantry.

The smile on the lips, and the gleam in the eyes of the hollowed little faces of the children, was far more payment than anyone ever hoped to receive, and will stay in one's memories for life.

Although Mother Baxandall never let on that stock from her pantry shelf was literally disappearing, she knew where it was going all the time.

Verdun and Janet were married in August of 1943, and settled on a farm 2½ miles West of Westlock next to the Wabash and the Golf Course. Blessed with four sons, Verdun found that farming his eighty acres was not productive enough to give his family a good standard of living, went to work in a machine shop in Town. Realizing the need for a Real Estate

Agency, he opened an office in Westlock in the late forties.

Real Estate was comparatively cheap those days, and farm land sold from Ten to Fifty Dollars per acre. Houses in Westlock sold from a Thousand Dollars for a one bedroom home up to Eight Thousand Dollars, precisely the top price of the day for a three bedroom home.

Money being rather scarce in the forties and fifties, many real estate transactions were made by trade. Most folks had clear titles to their property, so it was a case of finding equal value for farm land and city homes, for people who wanted a change in their lifestyle. High financing was not the mode of the era.

The Baxandall family lived on their eighty acre farm at the Wabash for seven years, then moved to Pickardville in 1950 until July 1st of 1952, when they moved to their place of residence at Rossington, where their sons attended school until its closing in the early fifties, and were transported by bus to the Westlock School to complete their education.

Gene Lee, oldest son of the Baxandall family married Fay Bentzen, of Clyde, and now resides in Athabasca; Albert James, his wife Anne, (nee Pyshniak) of Shoal Creek, and family reside in the Village of Rossington; Dale Trenton, his wife Victoria, (nee Gardner), and family reside in Leduc, and Wayne Terrance, resides in Edmonton.

Verdun and Janet were blessed with four granddaughters, and two grandsons; Chaymie Lane, Jody Anne, Melanie Jo, Alison Rose, James Albert and Jeremy Duane.

To them we trust our Heritage.

**Edward J. (Ted) Beakhouse**  
**by Alfred E. Beakhouse**

E. J. (Ted) Beakhouse was born September 5, 1880 in Berkshire, England. He apprenticed as a printer and worked at that trade in Newbury, Berkshire, and later in Shrewsbury, Shropshire as foreman for several years before joining the "Welsh Regiment" in 1916. During service in France he was wounded and gassed thereby receiving an Honorary Discharge and returning home.

For a short time he resumed work as a printer but was advised by his doctor to leave that type of job for a while. It was then that he decided to come to Canada with his family.

On March 5, 1920, Ted, his wife Nellie and family — Irene, Alfred and Leslie — left England and arrived in Edmonton on March 22nd. Ernest Hunt, brother of Nellie, who had come over earlier to farm in the Sunnybank area, met them and accompanied them by train to Westlock the following day.



The Beakhouse family, 1924. Alfred, Irene, Nellie and Ted. In front: Leslie and Philip.

There was so much snow that the trip from Westlock to Sunnybank had to be made by team and sleigh. Life in Canada began on a homestead situated a half mile north of Sunnybank School. Besides having a house built and clearing the land for farming, Ted secured work with the "Westlock Witness" which had just started in business. (A younger son, Philip, was born in Westlock in October, 1920.) Incidentally, Ted was with the "Witness" for thirty years, working for three different owners during that time. He also served as a Trustee for Sunnybank School District, being chairman for some years. While still in this position, a high school was built to accommodate the older students.



Mr. and Mrs. Ted Beakhouse.



Following their years of schooling, Irene married Tracy Miller and lived on a farm in Sunnybank, raising a family of eight children.

Alfred farmed until marrying in 1948 and taking up residence in Edmonton. He and his wife Betty had two daughters.

Leslie joined the R.C.A.F. training as a pilot and serving as a flying instructor. Les and his wife Marj lived in various places while he was in the Air Force and later settled in Edmonton. They had a family of three boys and a girl.

Philip also went into the R.C.A.F. where he trained to be an Instructor in Navigation. When he married, he and his wife Kay resided in Winnipeg. They had two sons and one daughter.

On retiring from the "Westlock Witness", Ted and his wife moved to Edmonton. Their son Les, had his own store in Edmonton for a while and later was employed by Canadian Safeway. He died at the age of 47 in 1962. Nell Beakhouse died at age 84 in 1966, Ted at age 94 in 1975. Irene Miller, after residing in Westlock for a few years, died in 1981 at the age of 75, and Philip at age 61 years in October, 1981. At the time of Philip's death, he had been employed by Winnipeg Hydro for a number of years. Alfred is the only surviving member of the family and has been retired from Imperial Oil Refinery since December, 1973 and is still residing in Edmonton.

### **Gab Beart and Family**

Although I have been in Westlock only about thirty years, I was born not that far away. I was born in Legal on June 3, 1917 and worked in the surrounding districts all my life. In 1942 I married Simone Hamel of Tawatinaw, also from a local district. In January of 1953 we moved to Westlock where I went to work for Westlock Cement Works. This company was owned by Mr. Pete Braglin. While in the cement business I also worked for McKenzie Brothers, Tom and Harold. When they sold out I worked for myself



Gab and Simone Beart at the Legion on their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

for a time and also made manholes for Whissell Enterprises, not only in Westlock but over a good part of Alberta.

After I quit the cement business I operated Westlock Mobile Feed Mill, but the dust was too much for me so I worked for Miller Brothers, and for Jonks Farms and Westlock Disposal till I retired.

Eventually we bought a lot from Dr. Whissell and built our own place where we still live. Of course, that was the year it decided to snow on October 5, 1957 with our house on blocks and the spuds still in the ground!

Over the years we raised a family of eight — four boys and four girls. We lost one son, Arthur, in a tragic truck accident at the age of 21. The rest are all married and on their own. Cicile (Mrs. Richard Montpellier) of Calgary, two children; Albert and his wife Barb of Edmonton, two girls; Erie and his wife Faye of Beaverlodge, two children; Angela (Mrs. Philip Colbourne) of Westlock, four children; Leo and his wife Carol of Edmonton, two children; Rosemarie (Mrs. Ken Sutherland) of Calgary, two children; and Maryann (Mrs. Ken Hammermiester) of Edmonton, 1 daughter. We have a family we are proud of and have enjoyed living in Westlock. I am retired now. My hobbies are gardening and wood-working. My wife and I have been members of the Legion for a number of years.

### **The Beaton Family by Margaret Craig**

Due to seven years crop failure in Fargo, North Dakota, Mr. and Mrs. John Beaton decided to move to Canada. They arrived in the Clyde area in 1903, making their trip by train to Edmonton, bringing their belongings in box cars. With them were four sons, George, Jim, Jess and Jack, one daughter, Sarah, and their chosen daughter Mercie Rogers. Sarah was the youngest and was twelve years old at the time. It was a very different life for Mrs. Beaton and I'm sure she had some sad moments.

Shortly after getting settled on their homestead north of Clyde, John passed away, which added more hardships to the family. However, the boys were fairly well grown up and were able to work close to home in summer and went to the logging camps in the winter, leaving the women to look after the house.

I believe Mrs. Beaton (Margaret) was one of the first midwives to come to that settlement and was kept very busy. Many of the middle age and elder citizens from that area now, she helped to bring into the world.

Later, the boys hauled freight from Morinville to Clyde, also from Clyde to Athabasca. Jim Beaton

worked a lot with Sergeant Watt in the early days. Jim remained single.

Mercie was the first to marry. She married Bill Taylor from Clyde. Jack married Christie Scott and Sarah married Murdock McGregor from Westlock.

Soon after the World War I broke out, George, Jack and Murdock all enlisted and went overseas. George married a girl from England and came to Canada after the war, but died within the year. Happy to say all three returned from the war. Jess remained single.

Mrs. Beaton later sold her farm and moved into Clyde where she was known as "Grandma Beaton" to all.

George drove a school bus for many years and later married Nellie Woods.

Jess worked most of the time on farms and road work in southern Alberta.

Jack joined the Edmonton Police Force and worked there for many years.

Sarah and Mercie and their husbands were both in farming; Mercie and Bill in Clyde, Sarah and Murdock in Westlock.

All are gone now, and I only wish I had asked more questions about their early days. What I can recall was they always looked back on the good times they had at house parties and dances and the get-togethers with all their neighbours. They never dwelled on hardship.

## **The Beatts**

**Jean E. Peterson**

**Esther S. Wrang**

**Amy H. Kuhn**

Our grandparents, James Horsburgh Beatt and Jeanie Brown Mackie Beatt, emigrated from Scotland in February, 1889. We cannot imagine what an awesome voyage that must have been for Jeanie and their six youngsters, all under ten years of age. We've heard her say how thankful she was for the help she received from her brother, William Mackie, who was travelling with them to Canada. Uncle Willie took charge of the five small boys.

A daughter, Isabella, (Auntie Bella to us) was born into the family shortly after they were settled in Canada.

In Montreal our grandfather, Rev. Beatt, continued in the Presbyterian ministry and there too, the young Beatts received their education. Our father, Peter Stewart, was apprenticed as a machinist to the C.P.R. and attended the night school in McGill to complete his formal education.

In 1904, Stewart's two oldest brothers and his elder sister were married: James in September to



Stewart and Lizzie Beatt with Amy Kuhn, daughter.

Lizzie English, Jeanie in November to Andrew Taylor and William in December to Minnie Brockoff.

James and Lizzie had three sons, two of whom are still living in Montreal. Jeannie and Andrew left no children. William and Minnie had a son and a daughter, both living in Washington State where they had moved with their mother after William's death. William had died of an illness contracted in Africa in the Boer War.

In 1905 Stewart, our dad, and Uncle Stephen came west and filed on adjacent homesteads just north west of the Edison settlement. In the spring of 1907 they were joined by their parents, their brother Robert (Bob) and sister Bella. They all lived in the big old log house built on Steve's homestead. It was always an open house for new settlers. Also in the big house Grandpa Beatt held regular Sunday worship services which were frequented by many young lonely homesteaders who were always assured of an invitation to the dinner table after the service.

Sunday afternoons in summer were times for games of soccer and baseball; in winter times of lively discussion topped off with tea and Granny Beatt's tasty scones.

In the summer of 1908, Bella was married to Frank Edgson and they settled on Frank's homestead near Edison Corner.

On Thanksgiving Day, October 25, 1909, Stew-





Daughters of Stewart Beatt. Standing: Amy Kuhn, Jean Peterson. Seated: Esther Hickey, now Mrs. Wrang.

art was married to Lizzie Westgate. They returned to Calgary where Stewart was employed in the C.P.R. shops at Ogden.

It was while Steven was visiting them that he met and married Alma Stagg.

While in Calgary, we three daughters and a son were born to Stewart and Lizzie. Our brother died before he was a year old with a severe throat infection.

In 1914, Stephen enlisted. He was killed in action in 1917. Grandpa Beatt died shortly after and Dad moved us all up to the farm. On that farm, in what had become Westlock, we three girls grew up. We attended the Westlock Schools and the United Church and in Westlock we made many life-long friends.

After the "Great Depression" Dad sold the homestead and went back to his trade with the C.P.R., this time in Nelson, B.C. He lived in Nelson until his death in 1946.

We three sisters are each married and still living in beautiful British Columbia, but there will always remain a warmth in our hearts for the good life we enjoyed as youngsters on the farm in sunny Alberta.

## The Beaudoin Family

Theophile Beaudoin came west in 1917 and bought his quarter of land from Mr. Bilo. His wife Marie-Anne, joined him in September of that year along with their son, Aram.

The following year Mr. and Mrs. Beaudoin were blessed with the arrival of a daughter, Cleophee. That was during the flu epidemic but all survived quite well. Girard, the second son was born in 1921 and Conrad the youngest came in 1924. Those were the good years. Prosperity reigned and most farmers in the Springfield area did very well.

However along came 1929 and the great disastrous depression of the nineteen thirties. In 1943 Mr. Beaudoin moved to Edmonton and worked at the General Hospital until 1963. Mrs. Beaudoin passed away in 1953 and Mr. Beaudoin in 1964.

Aram and Girard both settled in Seattle, Washington. Cleophee joined the Grey Nuns of Montreal and is still teaching school at St. Marys, close to Cardston. Conrad has been with the C.N.R. since 1948, working out of Edmonton as a conductor.

## Frank Belval — 1906 Pioneer by Lena Morin

Frank was born on March 26, 1873, in Eastburg, Vermont, U.S.A. and grew up there. He was one of a family of seven. As a young man he travelled and worked together with Felix Goupie through different parts of U.S.A. Canada, Alaska and the Yukon.



Frank Belval (left) and Felix Goupie.

He tried his hand at gold mining in Dawson on the Dominion, Eldorado and Henderson Creeks in 1900 and remained there three years. In the spring of 1906 he travelled with Felix Goupie and filed on an adjoining homestead S.E. 34-58-27-4. Like other pioneers he cleared and broke land continually. Frank worked in the Cardiff Coal Mine several winters and returned to the farm for the summer. A huge amount of coal fell on him while he worked in the mine and the accident affected his health for the remainder of his life.



Partners Frank Belval and Felix Goupie.

He never was a good hand at the kitchen duties and in 1917 he returned to the eastern states. While there he met a young lady called Katherine Shield, from Boston. Frank and Katherine were married August 21, 1918 and came to the homestead in Pickardville. She came from the city but became a good farm wife. Unfortunately they had no family. Her only relative out here was a niece, Mrs. Winnifred Barrett from Westlock. Frank had a brother Dave and family at Meanook, Alberta and a niece Rose (Mrs. Pat Breault). Frank expanded to a half section of land S.W. 26-58-27-W4 and always farmed with horses.

Katherine had a lengthy illness with cancer and left us October 25, 1933. Internment was in St. Benedict Parish cemetery. Frank rented his farm for a short time after his wife's passing and later sold to Alex Brown and Albert Smith. He left Pickardville in 1936 for the west coast and settled in Burnaby, B.C. He returned to Pickardville for a couple of visits but returned to Burnaby until his passing in September, 1961. Internment was in Burnaby.

## **The Camile Benjamin Family**

by J. Irene Kramps

Mr. and Mrs. C. Benjamin lived on a quarter owned by her brother-in-law, Mr. Jack Brown in the Pickardville area. They originally came from the U.S.A.

They had three sons, Louis, who stayed in the States, Robert and Philip, who came along with them.

They lost their only daughter, Mary, in a fire



Robert Benjamin.

which destroyed their home in 1934. Mr. Benjamin tried in vain to save his daughter and his hands were badly burned.

Shortly after, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin and the boys moved back to the United States where they have since passed away.

Phil and Robert have been back to visit.

## **Lawrence Gilbert Bennett**

by Jessie Bennett

Lawrence Gilbert Bennett was born in Cleveland, Ohio. His parents and family moved to Canada in 1913, homesteading at Freedom. When his father died, Lawrence then left school and farmed for his mother until war was declared. He joined the army and went overseas in December of 1939 to England. He met Jessie Brown of Perth, Scotland, and was married in 1941. He was in the invasion of Sicily and Italy. He came back to Canada in May of 1945 and was discharged in September, 1945.

Jessie and Karen, their daughter who was born in





Lawrence and Jessie Bennett. St. John's Church, Perth, Scotland.

Scotland, came to Westlock in June, 1946. Lawrence drove the Northland Arrow Lines' Bus from Westlock to Edmonton. Our house was on 107th Street, to the east of Calgary Power.

Jessie and Lawrence had three more children; David, then the twins, Flawrence and Lawrence. The twins were quite an event in Westlock, but in the next few years there were quite a few sets of twins.

Jessie's parents, Ann and David Brown immigrated to Canada in December, 1948. They made their home with Jessie and Lawrence. David Brown was a retired postman.

Lawrence drove a bus for four and a half years, then worked on oil rigs for a number of years. He had a bad attack of arthritis, and could not go back to work on the oil rigs. He worked for the Westlock School Division as a janitor, and drove a school bus for many years. He worked at Doherty's Garage as a janitor for a number of years, then went back to work for the Westlock School Division as a janitor.



1949 — Lawrence G. Bennett. Northland Arrow Bus Lines.

In 1966, Lawrence retired because of his health.

In 1955, Jessie went to work for the Municipal District of Westlock, #92. E. W. Stutchbury was secretary-treasurer and the office was on Main Street, where the new Medicine Bottle Drug Mart building now stands.

E. W. Stutchbury left Westlock and moved to Barrhead. Carl Muller, from Saskatchewan, took over the position of secretary-treasurer in 1956. The M. D. didn't have too much money for a few years, so we would take ledger covers off the old records and use them again. It was interesting to read some of the old records, from when the Municipal Districts were small.

The Westlock School Division #37 and the Municipal District of Westlock, erected a new office building in 1964, on 106th Street. We had lots of extra room when we moved in, but in a few years we were getting short of space.

Jessie worked for the M.D. for 22 years, then retired in 1977.

In 1978, Lawrence and Jessie moved to Penticton to see whether the climate would be better for Lawrence's health, but they moved back to Westlock again in 1979.



Lawrence G. Bennett family. Flawrence, David, Lawrence, Karen. Front: Lawrence Sr. and Jessie.

**Karen** married Boris Luchka of Bon Accord. They farm five miles west of Jarvie. They had three children; Philip, Carrie and Lea Ann. Carrie died in 1972 at the age of nine years.

**David** married Grace Kunsman of Lethbridge. They live in Edmonton. They have three girls; Krista, Jody and Paula. David works for Agnew Shoe Stores where he is District Manager for Northern Alberta.

**Lawrence** was killed in a car accident on September 11, 1971. Age 22.

Flawrence married Stan Szymanski of Westlock. They live in Leduc with their two boys, Chad and Wade. Stan works as an Oil Field Supervisor.

## William A. C. Bennett

W. A. C. Bennett was born in Nauwigewauk, New Brunswick. (The story of how this town got it's name: One day down town the pioneers were trying to decide on a name, a Scottish lady went by with her small child. He kept sitting down. Finally the mother gave him a sound spanking and said "Nauwigewauk — now would you walk" and the men decided that was a good name for the town).

Mr. Bennett apprenticed in St. John, New Brunswick, in the hardware business and enlisted in the Air Force in World War 1 at an early age. When the war was over he moved to the Peace River District, received his discharge here and took up farming. He soon decided he preferred the hardware business, so went to Edmonton and got work in Marshall Wells.

In February, 1927 he and Mr. J. P. Renaud bought Dios Smith's hardware in Westlock. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett were married in July, 1927.

Mrs. Bennett was born in Wellington, Vancouver Island and moved to Southern Alberta at the age of ten. Later she received her teaching degree in Edmonton and taught at King Edward School. She was very active in church work, as was Mr. Bennet and this is where they met.

Their first child, a daughter Anita (Mrs. G. H. Pozer), was born while they lived in Westlock.

In 1929 Mr. Bennett and Mr. Renaud purchased a hardware store in Clyde, Alberta, with Mr. Renaud remaining in Westlock and Mr. Bennett moving to Clyde to operate the store there. This is where their son R. J. (Russell J.) was born. In 1930 Mr. Bennett sold his interest in the business to Mr. Renaud and

moved to Kelowna, B.C. This is where their son William R. (Bill) was born. Mr. Bennett operated a hardware store in Kelowna for many years and also had hardware stores in Penticton, Vernon and Kamloops, B.C.

Soon after his arrival in B.C. he became involved in politics and in 1941 was elected as Conservative Member for South Okanagan, in the Provincial Legislature. He tried once for election to parliament, but lost to the C.C.F. candidate. Later he joined the Social Credit Party. He was chosen leader of the party and was Premier of British Columbia from 1952 to 1972 and his son Bill, has been Premier of British Columbia from 1975 to the present.

Mr. Bennett passed away in 1979, but Mrs. Bennett, her three children and many grand children all make their homes in Kelowna.

Mrs. Bennett recently opened "The May Bennett Senior Citizens' Home" in the Rutland area. It was named in her honor. She has also been made an honorary member of the Red Cross of Canada, and is still active in I.O.D.E. and church work.

Anita is President of The United Way of British Columbia.

R. J. (Russell) is on the Breeder's Association of British Columbia and also on the board of the Bank of British Columbia.

Mrs. Bennett's first impression of Westlock was that it was a very small town, but the people were very friendly. She remembers one incident about how she and Mr. Bennett saved up all their buffalo nickels to buy a washing machine. They saved a hundred dollars worth, but only received ninety dollars in Canadian funds.

## Grace and Arthur Bentley

written by Allison Sumner

It was always my mother's intention to write a book when she retired. She wasn't able to retire until the age of seventy and then it never seemed to get done. However we do have many of her writings from all those years and I feel I must tell what I remember of my parents' association with Westlock.

**Grace de Wolfe MacKinlay** was born in Halifax, N.S. in 1892. She came west with her mother and father for a visit in 1914 and liked it so much that she went to work for International Harvester in Edmonton. **Arthur Garrison Ward Bentley** was born in Merrickville, Ontario, 1890, the 2nd eldest of seven. His mother was widowed in 1912 when her husband was killed in a railway accident as a conductor of a freight train. The family came to Edmonton and Arthur went to work for the Edmonton Journal in the advertising department. The two met at MacDou-



W. A. C. Bennett and Anita.





Grace and Art Bentley, early 1920's.

gal United Church where Art was Secretary and they were later married there in 1915.

Grace's father, George MacKinlay, had moved to Westlock as the 1st station agent for the E.D. & B.C. railway (now N.A.R.) and Art and Grace decided to follow and start a grocery store. The building still stands, one block west of the railroad tracks, on the road to Hazel Bluff. They made their home on the second floor where I was born in the north west bedroom, Dr. Phillips, attending. This store was called "THE WAYSIDE STORE" and along with it Arthur contracted to care for Dr. Henderson's horse, a great pacer. This enabled them to take buggy and sleigh rides for recreation. Mother tells the story that once while she was expecting me, they ended up in a race down main street with another horse owner, almost resulting in my birth on the main street of Westlock. Another one of her anecdotes relates to them having gas lamps hanging from the ceiling of the Wayside Store. Apparently Dad went down stairs to put out the lights after he had readied himself for bed. Just as he was up on a stool to extinguish the lamp a sleigh load of youngsters went by. They yelled and screamed so that Dad tore up the staircase, hooking his nightshirt on the post and splitting it right up the side. He lived in perpetual embarrassment for weeks.

In 1916 they bought the building on the lane behind what is now Sutherlands Drug Store and opened a confectionary. Mother tells of Art's elabor-

ate soda fountain fixtures, bentwood chairs and round tables, etc. Business was too much for his health so he sold out to Egar Stanton who moved in from Hazel Bluff. Since his actual trade was barbering he opened a shop on main street and gradually expanded it to include dry-cleaning and made-to-measure clothing. In 1922 they built the home on the "Base Line" that they were to live in for the next 58 years.

Mary was born that same year. Grace became active in Red Cross, Orange Lodge, Women's Institute, of which she was a founding member, and many other worthy community efforts. She played the back-ground music for the silent movies in the old theatre that burned down next to the Beaver Lumber. She also played the piano for dances, travelling to many of the neighboring communities. Our home was always lively with sing-songs, games, parties for young and old. David was the next one born, and Shirley rounded out the family almost 2 years later. When the four of us reached school age Mother started to work afternoons for Harry Fraser, Barrister, and also did Court reporting, taking down every word spoken in shorthand and later typing it for the records.



Grace and Art Bentley, 1977.

Westlock was a closely knit village with lots of group activities. We would go to Lake Wabamun or Lac La Nonne on Sundays with the Campbells, the Gardams, the Guests, the Wheatleys, the McCulloughs, the Grosses and others. All would take food and make it a great family day. Those who were

lucky enough to own cars took their neighbors. Speaking of cars, I remember one that my dad had. It was an old Ford with a high box on the back. One Hallowe'en some pranksters painted the words "Toonerville Trolley" on it and somehow managed to lift it up on the roof of Schmidts Garage for all to see. We still used it to go to the lake and the box made an ideal change-room. I can still see my mother, with her long red hair in a bun, wearing a cotton bathing suit and long stockings — so modest in the 1920's. Some tough experiences were encountered while returning from some of those lake picnics when it rained and the roads became muddy.

Mr. Wheatley owned the lighting plant and he charged a flat rate for electricity — \$2.00 per month. The power was turned off at midnight, with a blinking of the lights at 11:30 each night to remind us it was coming up. Bridge games had to be finished and all headed for home in order to get to bed before black-out. The village was so interesting with Mr. Mac-Tavish's two storey building with large show windows. Lennox Tice dispensed drugs of every type from colored jars. He even had an herb garden in the rear. Dr. Henderson, and later Dr. Millar, had a skeleton hanging in his office and we kids could conjure up all kinds of visions of where it came from. Dr. Sands had his dental office upstairs and it was never a treat to visit it. There was the Chinese Cafe, up from the station, where we used to gather at times, that is when we weren't at Wolsely Clarkes, where he had all the chocolates on display. Armitages' had a store and across from it was the Chinese Laundry. We had to go there to get my Dad's starched collars. He always wore white shirts with these collars along with navy-blue suits. There was Mr. Weener, who dealt in furs in a store near the old Marshall restaurant which later became a shoe shop. Joe Feldman had a Livery barn across from the rambling Breamer house next to the Blacksmith shop.

I can remember one day pulling Shirley and Dave down town in a sleigh. Two young boys came along and tipped them out. I ran to my Dad's barber shop to tell him. He was so infuriated that he took off after the boys leaving his customer in the barber chair. It was Allan Stanton and Eugene Montpelier that he was after. The latter escaped but Dad followed Allan into his home and pulled him from under the bed and spanked him while the boy's mother Bessie Stanton looked on. That was the kind of close spirit there was in those days. Our first school was a few doors south of the Bank — a two room building which later became a hall and theatre. I started with Mabel and Aubrey Campbell. I remember some of the boys bringing baby coyotes to keep at their desks. When the brick school opened in 1927 we were really excit-

ed. We all marched from the old to the new down the street. Katie Olson, Cecil Hergott, Rita Sterling, Miss Blue and Mrs. Ostrich were all great teachers. Later in High School we would have parties in the Anglican Hall. The boys would pay 25¢ and the girls would bring lunch.

Clarke's Cafe was the favorite teen-ager hangout. We would gather in the booths at the back. He had the most fabulous chocolate showcase and at Easter time he would have special cream chicken eggs and bunnies from Moir's Factory in Halifax. Our first skating rink was at the Fair Grounds with music and a warm heater in the change room. Later the rink was built down town across from Doherty's Garage. We also skated on the "Buttermilk Pond". This is where the dairy used to empty their waste, across the tracks near Pete Wilson's farm. It would freeze over in the winter and we would put our skates on at the Pool Elevator, cross the fence and go skating on the unusual ice. We wore long stockings and fleece lined bloomers.

Archie Ashby, whose farm was on the Hazel Bluff road, delivered the most wonderful milk, topped with inches of thick cream, to all the households in the village for five cents a quart. At Xmas time there was always some entrepreneur selling Xmas trees for 25¢ each. My Dad used to trade his services and products for various things such as meat, fish, produce and wood. All winter our yard would fill up with huge piles of long poplar poles. Then in the spring someone would come with a buzz saw and cut it all up. Someone else would come along to split and pile it. Another fond memory I have is of the "Fowl Suppers" held in the fall at the Hazel Bluff Church. They were quite the events with people attending from miles around.

Throughout the years my Dad developed his business with Tip Top Tailors more and more until he took in a partner barber, Albert Zacek, and he took to the road, mostly in the north country, where sales were good. He was always strong in advertising and I am sure he practically kept Mr. Watkins, the sign painter, in business. Meanwhile, not to be outdone, my Mother, who had been operating as Librarian for many years in the former telephone office, decided to open a dress shop. This kept her in touch with all the usual community activities and she got called upon to write everything from obituaries to farewells, poems to plays, since she had a real talent for such things. She wrote up each of the weddings of her own family. In 1941 Mary married Jack Stibbards who was then in the Air Force. That resulted in seven children, all presently living on the west coast. Unfortunately Mary developed emphysema and succumbed to a pneumonia attack in 1974. I (Allison) married Mel



Sumner in 1942. His parents had moved to Westlock in 1938, his father running the Pool Elevator. We managed four children, most of whom are now producing grandchildren for us. Shirley married Rod MacDonald in 1947. He operated the first Taxi business in the town and district. They have two children. David, my brother, married Janet Covey in Edmonton in 1956. They live in that city with their three offspring. Both my parents have passed on. Dad died in the Westlock Hospital on May 14, 1980 at the age of 90. Mother joined him from the Auxiliary Hospital on Dec. 14, 1981 at the age of 89, thereby completing a span of some 66 years residence in the Westlock Community, a place of which they both were so justifiably proud.

### **The Early History of the Bernard Family** by Jeanette Beauchamp

The Fortunat Bernard family came to the west in the spring of 1920 from St. Justine, about sixty miles south of Quebec City, with five children; Adrien, Jeanette, Henry, Yvonne and Marie. For five years they farmed in the Mearns District and three more children were born during this time. They were Louise, Lucienne (who died in infancy) and Emile.

In the winter of 1925 my father bought two quarter sections from Mr. Alfonse Gibeault, situated two miles south and one mile east of Vimy, and moved the family there. Eventually, three more children were born; Marcel, Juliette and Clemence. Times were very hard, then, and the girls had to work just as hard as the boys, doing chores outside and working in the fields.



Mr. and Mrs. Fortunat Bernard with new car, 1929-30.

In 1934 our mother died quite suddenly, when she was only forty years old. It was a big loss to us as there were nine of us children at home; only one was married. We managed to survive and did very well. All ten of us are still living. Adrien, Jeanette Beauchamp, Marie Richardson and Yvonne Pope are all



Emile, Marcel and Juliette Bernard with the Box Car, about 1932-33.

living in Edmonton. Henry is in Westlock, and Louise Cunningham resides in Oshawa, Ontario. Emile, Marcel, and Clemence Dusseault are in Vimy, while Juliette Destruel is a resident of Clyde.

Our dad, Fortunat Bernard, died on February 8, 1974.

### **The Berry Family** by Tessie Berry

Mr. Adelbert Berry was born in 1862 at Black River Falls, Wisconsin. In 1884 he married Cordelia Clark.

They came to Edmonton in 1900 with their two children, Myrtle St. John and Emmett Berry. They lived in Kenistina on five acres of land, later moving to 105th St. and 105th Ave. In 1905 they homesteaded in the Edison district. Mr. A. Berry and son Emmett lived on the homestead. Mrs. Berry continued to live in the city until she passed away in 1927. Mr. Adelbert Berry passed away in 1914 on his way to the Mayo Clinic.

Emmett remained on the homestead and married Tessie West in 1909. They had three children, Clarence, Glen and Melvin. Emmett started carrying the mail January 1st, 1919 and continued to do so until ill health forced him to retire. He obtained R.R. #2 in 1923. This route was from Westlock to Rossington, I carried the R.R. #1 route from 1919 until 1953. After Emmett's retirement, Melvin carried the mail until 1969.

Emmett passed away April 4th, 1955 and I have resided in Edmonton since 1956.

Clarence and family live in Edmonton. Glen and family live in Port Moody B.C. Melvin and family live in Westlock.

### **Tessie and Emmett Berry and the mail**

Mr. Emmet Berry, for thirty years, drove forty miles to Rossington and district and home again three

times a week and later twice a week, to deliver and pick up mail. For many years he drove horses on the route, later a Model T Ford, sometimes with a trailer to carry the overload. In 1928 he acquired a Chevrolet car but in stormy weather he had to fall back on the horses.



**First Mail Carriers** — Harvey Beauchamp and his brother Joe were the first mailmen who carried mail into the district between 1910 and 1915. The first post office in Westlock opened in 1916. The Beauchamps picked up the mail at Clyde and delivered it to post offices in the country including Edison, Swallowhurst, Hazel Bluff and to Tom Letts Post Office one mile west and four miles north of Hazel Bluff Church.

Tessie Berry drove Rural Route #1 from Westlock east and south thirty one miles twice a week, faithfully, in all moods of weather. Often she had a youngster or two beside her. Many were the runaways and buggy troubles over the years, but she always had a ready smile and cheery word.

Her father had the route prior to her, with Mr. Holmes as carrier. Melvin (Tessie and Emmet's son) succeeded her and drove the mail for many years.

## Joe and Anne Bibby

The first time we came to Westlock was to visit Joe's Mother and Dad, who were living on Wes Bibby's farm, 7 miles S.W. of Westlock.

In 1938 we bought 5 acres of land from Mr. Pettit on the N.W. corner of his farm. The next summer, Mr. George Dieffenbough built a house for us, hiring two local boys to help. At that time the wage asked for the boys was 75¢ each per day, plus dinner and supper!

During the summer of 1942 we moved from Mountain Park with our son, Kenneth. We found the people in Westlock warm, friendly, and never felt like outsiders. Our good neighbors across the road were Mrs. McEachern and the Dios Smith family.



Joe, Ken and Anne Bibby.

Joe worked at Doherty's garage for 15 years, and after retiring he was with the P.F.A on a part time basis.

I belonged to the Legion and was the treasurer during the war years. At Christmas we sent parcels to all the boys in the forces. Mrs. Jimmie Hunter and I made up parcels to be sent at special times, the merchants being very helpful by saving things in short supply for us.

Ours was the first greenhouse to be built in Westlock. A former resident of the town, Mrs. Katie Marshall helped us every spring for years. We were the first to plant the flower beds in the cemetery. One day while we were working there, a lady from New York told us how grateful she was that the cemetery was so well kept. She was there visiting her daughter's grave. It all looked very nice that sunny day with the newly cut grass and freshly planted flower beds.

As well as the greenhouse we had a flock of chickens and shipped hatching eggs to Edmonton.

Ken married Shirley Jack and they farmed for years, and were blessed with three daughters. Karen is a registered nurse at the University of Alberta Hospital in the Intensive Care unit for the sick and premature babies, taking a special course in order to travel by plane or ambulance to pick up seriously ill babies. She is married to Dennis Tomlinson and lives in Edmonton.



Anne and Joe Bibby in their greenhouse.



Colleen trained as a Dental Assistant and is married to Jack St. Arnaud and they farm near Vimy.

Heather is still going to school and is in grade 11.

The Westlock Inn is built on our former property at the "corner" and we now live in a house we bought in Southview.

Since retiring Joe discovered he had an artistic talent that he didn't know he possessed. He has spent many satisfying hours both sculpturing and painting. He enjoys this new found hobby very much and has many fine sculptures and paintings. He likes to share their beauty and his experiences with anyone interested. It has been a very rewarding hobby for his retiring years.

I still enjoy raising plants of all kinds. I have a small greenhouse and spend many happy hours with my plants and flowers. My flowers, garden and yard require a lot of my time and bring me much pleasure. I also enjoy reading as well as many types of handicrafts.

## The Wess Bibby Story

This is an account of our life on the farm in the Hazel Bluff district. We bought the N.W.15,T 59,R 27,W4M in October 1935. We were living at Mountain Park, a coal mining town in the foothills of the Rockies, along the western boundary of Alberta.

Wess was on the maintenance crew which meant keeping the mine operating by whatever means necessary. He operated a caterpillar tractor and a blacksmith shop which included horseshoeing and general repairs. Work was steady, with some overtime so we were able to save enough money to buy a John Deere Steel Wheel tractor, a plow and small machinery from Frank Merryweather.

We stayed on at Mountain Park wanting to get the necessary equipment for farming. We were able to

get Wess's father and mother to move from Ashmont to take over the farm until we were able to do so.

Christopher and Sarah Bibby came from Lancaster, the county seat of Lanashire, forty-five miles north north-east of the port of Liverpool.

Mr. Bibby had come to Regina, Saskatchewan in 1912. He spent the winter at a lumber camp in British Columbia then found work in Edmonton at Swift's Packing Plant.

When World War 1 broke out Mr. Bibby joined the Edmonton Engineers Regiment, went overseas to serve the allies in France.

Wess came with Mrs. Bibby's sister Ethel and brother John to Grenfell Saskatchewan where Mr. Bibby's sister lived. The boat on which they crossed sailed from Southampton to New York, taking six days. This was in September 1918 while the war was still going on.

Mr. Bibby was able to come to Canada in the spring of 1919. The family came to North Edmonton to settle, Mr. Bibby being employed again by Swift's Canadian. In the meantime, the eldest son Richard, who had served in the British Army, completed his term of service and arrived in Edmonton with them. The second son Josephy Bibby completed the group, having spent a time working in Saskatchewan on a farm.

Mr. Bibby left Edmonton to farm at Ashmont for a period of eight years. In the spring of 1937 he came to take over our farm. Mr. and Mrs. Bibby were at Westlock until 1942 when they came back to live in North Edmonton.

In August 1942 we left Mountain Park for Westlock. We had two rooms finished in our house on the farm, that was the home for the winter of 42 and 43. Joan was five years, Garth was eight months. It was quite a change to come onto a farm without electricity, water to carry, wood to chop and our closest neighbour half a mile down the road. We really appreciated Mr. and Mrs. Horricks visiting in their sleigh or buggy. However we soon became acquainted with all our neighbours and found life on the farm interesting and challenging.

Our operation was mixed farming, grain, pigs, milk cows and a small beef herd which grew as the years passed. We purchased the quarter section directly west, filed on originally by John and Victoria Olmstead. Later we bought a quarter section half a mile south which was filed on by the father of Mr. Fred Smith.

Our children, Joan and Garth, attended Hazel Bluff school until Joan passed into grade nine. They went then to the school in the town of Westlock, a bus ride of seven miles. The third member of our family, Dick, was born at the Immaculata Hospital, also



Mr. Christopher Bibby.



Mrs. Sarah Bibby.

attended school in Westlock. The three graduated from this school in their own time, leaving the farm to go on to school in Edmonton.

Once again there were the two of us, we continued farming on our own until the spring of 1970 when Garth and Rose came out from Edmonton. Garth had purchased the Olmstead farm from us. Garth and his father farmed together, then Wess retired renting to Garth.

Garth lives across the road and has three daughters. Joan lives in Edmonton, has one daughter and two sons. Dick lives at Westlock, has two sons and two daughters.

Wess and I, Emily, live on our original farm and rarely think of moving anywhere else.

## Orland and Zella Bidne

It was Easter Monday, March 28, 1937, when Orland Bidne arrived in Westlock. As the freight train slowed, a red hip-roofed barn reminded him of their big one down home. Orland was soon established on the NW¼-8-60-26-W4. This little farm, one and a half miles north of town, was to be "Home Sweet Home" for the next nine years.

Spring came early in 1937, Orland had a dandy four horse outfit so he enjoyed his farming on the fertile, level fields.

After work he walked into town, met a great gang of young boys and girls. He was very fond of baseball and found Westlock to be a sports-minded town. He was soon enrolled in the Westlock Ball Club along

with such well-remembered players as Mr. Boyd, Sr., and Wick Crone (the managers), Miller Watt, first base umpire, Ivan Sutherland, Don Downing, George Coley, Ward Armitage, Roy Taylor, Warren Smith and others.

Orland insisted that I come to Westlock for the Westlock Sports Day on June 9th. Arrangements were made for me to stay at Platt's, which we surely appreciated. On June 29, 1937, we were married at my McKee farm home in Vermilion, so Orland and I arrived back in Westlock in time for the July 1st. Sports Day in Barrhead.

The first heavy rain of the season came that night bringing an end to the dry spell. The crops suddenly grew inches. The thistles grew abundantly, too, but the gardens were prolific. Corn and beans were plentiful. Mrs. Platt and I canned them on half shares. Berries were in abundance. We also worked together during threshing time, helping each other cook meals.

After the fall plowing was completed and a load of coal brought in from the Pickardville Coal Mine, Orland left by bus for my home in Vermilion. From there he rode my saddle horse, Ranger, to go and see Mother Bidne near Youngstown. After three weeks with her he came back with the mares, colts and cattle that had pastured there all summer. How good it was to see Orland and my saddle horse!



Orland and Zella Bidne with son Clarence on day of his christening, June, 1938.



Orland Bidne and children. He was flying at Vulcan, Alberta.

We hauled water with a big tank from Platt's until 1939 when we had a sixty foot well bored which produced a good supply of water.

Our first son, Clarence Wilson, was born June 7, 1938.

The years 1938 and 1939 found prices of farm produce at the lowest possible mark. No. 1. wheat



was 17½ cents a bushel, a two year old steer brought \$10 and a two hundred pound pig realized \$2. Wages were low and hundreds of men rode the freights looking for work.

On Sunday, September 3, 1939 World War II was declared in Canada. Thousands of our young men and women joined up. When I arrived home from Vermilion in July 1940 with our first daughter, Gladys, I was shocked to learn that Orland had joined the aeromechanics division of the R.C.A.F. On January 17, 1941 he left a sad little family, along with a hired girl. In April the hired girl joined the CWAC's so Orland's sister replaced her, which was a real life saver. When Orland came home in July, he called my name at the door — Clarence, now three years old said, "Is that my Daddy?"

He completed his course, obtaining an automatic "B" rating, second in his class. In November he was posted back to Claresholm, Alberta, where he enjoyed his work checking over Super Merlin (Rolls-Royce) airplane motors after each student pilot's flip. He was able to rush home on the "Flier," (a fast train from Calgary to Edmonton) every two weeks on a 48 hour leave. Hitchhiking at both ends was unpredictable. One cold night, just before Christmas, he nearly froze his feet. In March, 1942, when I visited him in Belcher Hospital, Calgary, he was on crutches, suffering from arthritis.

Many events were held in the towns to raise money for the war effort. On August 14, 1942, an auction sale which netted \$3700 was held on Main Street in Westlock. A mobile kitchen was purchased to serve soldiers coming out of the trenches.

Orland now remustered as a pilot and was posted to Abbotsford, B.C. for elementary flying, then to Vulcan, Alberta, for service flying in 1944. His sister worked in the munition factory in Ajax, Ontario, so her boy, Gordon, eight years old, stayed with us. Peter Seward often rode over on his pony "Sandy," to add to the excitement of playing Indians with turkey-tail feather head-dresses. What fun they had!

On August 2, 1944, a second war effort sale in Westlock netted \$5209.

Orland received his Wings and Sergeant stripes at Vulcan on September 20, 1944, then left for Three Rivers, Quebec for commando training. This was an overseas posting but the war was winding up in Europe. Orland was disappointed he didn't get overseas but the family was happy and very grateful. He was home for Christmas and later got his discharge.

The hunting season of 1945 was exciting for Orland, being his first time out for big game. He had bought a big heavy four-wheel drive Army truck. Billie McDonald, Mr. Holtan, Mr. Campbell and Orland camped in a log shack about forty miles north

of Edson. Orland spent ten days (with the mumps) in his eiderdown sleeping bag. Having no luck in that spot they moved to Mountain Park, and in a week came home with four moose and three deer.

The big shuffle back to civilian life included the change to tractor farming but Orland missed his horses. Since one quarter was not enough land, he sold it and bought the Allie Watt half-section across the Pembina River. We moved with a three months old baby, Bernice, who was born in May, 1946. My greatest concern was the school situation, two schools each being three miles away. Having teaching experience, I taught the three youngsters, aged eight, six and five, the three R's during the first winter. They then went to Riverdale school in 1947, when Dorothy Letts was teacher.

By 1952 the youngsters were bussed to Westlock, when most country schools were closed. I taught at Pembina Heights until 1957.

The Chevrolet car which Orland bought in 1946 was a great asset, though getting to Westlock for Church and Sunday School was irregular, on account of the river, the roads and the distance. At home we sang hymns, read Bible stories and listened to the radio services.

The 4-H club was organized in the area and our boys developed an interest in agriculture and cattle. Clarence won prizes with the two animals he took to Toronto Royal in 1955.

The youngsters were all active in sports at school enjoying the track meets especially.

In 1957 we moved from Pembina Heights to a section nine miles from Barrhead. By now Clarence was farming with his dad.

Another twelve years went by, Orland sold again and he bought the Vadheim estate two miles south of Westlock. Here stands that red, hip-roofed barn that Orland had seen from the train in 1937. He farmed this section alone until September, 1973, when he suffered a severe stroke. He recovered wonderfully with no after effects. We flew to England in 1976 to visit our daughter, Gladys. We celebrated our fortieth anniversary in 1977. The farm was rented by this time — Orland died of cancer in 1978.

Possibly the biggest highlight in Orland's sport experiences was at a Barrhead tournament on July 1, 1949. The Barrhead and Westlock combined team beat Athabasca in the final game, 11 to 6. Orland hit two home runs in a row, the first one batting right handed. A new left-handed pitcher was put in — Orland hit a second home run batting left handed.

In July, 1951, under the arrangements of the late Harvey Doherty, the Westlock Baseball Club went on a winning tour through the Peace River country. Orland was then forty-three years old, but he played

first base. He hung up his spikes that year, as he said he would, while he still played a good game.

## **The F. J. (Jack) Bigg Family**

**written by Gladys Bigg**

The Bigg family arrived in Westlock from Toronto in 1953. Jack had just completed three years at the University of Toronto and received his Degree in Law.

The Officer Commanding the Toronto Division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at that time was George B. McClellan, who later became Alberta's first Ombudsman. George had served for a time in Westlock as a young man and thought it was an ideal place for Jack to obtain detachment experience.

Jack was born in Meskanaw, near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. He received his education at St. George's Boys School and later the University of Saskatchewan. He joined the R.C.M. Police in 1935 and was posted to Regina. In 1937 he married Gladys Jenner formerly of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, but born in Huxley, Alberta.



Jack Bigg family: Phyllis, Jack, Gladys, Pamela and Heather.

Phyllis was born in 1938 and shortly after, Jack was transferred to Winnipeg, Manitoba.

When war was declared in 1939, Jack joined the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery and went overseas with the first Canadian Division. He attained the rank of Captain and came back to Winnipeg in 1945, where he became Rehabilitation Officer at Fort Osborne Barracks.

In 1946 Pamela was born and in 1947 Jack rejoined the R.C.M. Police and was sent to Ottawa.

Heather was born in 1948 and Jack was promoted to Corporal in 1950. In 1951 he was selected by the R.C.M. Police for further education and was transferred to Toronto, where he obtained his L.L.B. Shortly after his graduation, the Bigg family was sent to Westlock.

The first impression of Westlock was disappointing to the family, although the children made friends easily and they entered into the life of the United Church and Community. There was no place to live. Westlock's population was about 1200 in 1953, with few homes being built and nothing for rent. George McClellan had given names of friends he had made here and, although they contacted them all the first day they were in Westlock, the results were disheartening and the family lived in the Westlock Hotel for more than six weeks before they found a place to live. The Anselmo's and Vannieuvenhyses owned the hotel at that time and although they were most kind, it wasn't an ideal place to keep an active family and they longed for home cooked meals.

Finally a small house came vacant and the Bigg family moved. This was no dream home, as it had no water or sewer, but to them it was home for a year before they were able to find a house with modern facilities.

In 1955 Fred Steininger, who was Sergeant-In-Charge of the Westlock Detachment at the time of the Bigg's arrival, was transferred and Jack was promoted to Sergeant and the family moved into the barracks on the highway, next to the Immaculata Hospital, where they lived until 1957.

At that time Jack became interested in Federal Politics and early 1958 he was released from the R.C.M. Police in order to run in the Constituency of Athabasca. He was elected March 31st, 1958 and served the Constituency for ten years, until re-distribution created Pembina Constituency whereat, he became its first Member of Parliament. During his fourteen years in Parliament, Jack had many interesting assignments. He was representative to NATO in 1959 when it met in Paris, again when it met at the Hague. He attended United Nations Sessions several times and travelled to many different countries for the Government.

He gave up politics in 1972 and decided to get his call to the Bar. He suffered a heart attack in 1973 and so retired. In 1975, while traveling in the United States, he had a second heart attack, which proved fatal. He was cremated at San Luis Obispo, California, April 18, 1975 and his ashes are buried in the Westlock cemetery.

Gladys returned to Westlock the same year and





Jack and Gladys Bigg on their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

was soon active in the community once again. She was elected to Town Council in 1977 and served a term. She remained on the Board of the Thorhild-Westlock Auxiliary Hospital and Nursing Home, on the Board of the United Church and as a Director of both the Federal and Provincial Conservative Associations.

Phyllis entered the Royal Alex School of Nursing after her graduation from Westlock High. She graduated in 1959 and went to Toronto to work in the Sick Children's Hospital. In 1960 she married Harold Borle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Borle of Villeneuve, who was in the R.C.M. Police at the time. They now live near Mearns, Alberta and Harold farms and is also employed at Norcen Gas, as a compressor engineer. Phyllis is back nursing at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. They have five children.

Pamela graduated from Westlock High School in 1964 and trained as a Dental Nurse at N.A.I.T. In 1965 she married Don Cole, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Cole of Barrhead, Alberta. They have three children and now live in St. Albert. Don manages a branch of the Toronto-Dominion Bank in down town Edmonton and Pamela is employed in a Dental Clinic in St. Albert.

Heather also trained at the Royal Alexandra Hospital School of Nursing. She married Ian Sutherland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sutherland of Westlock. Ian is a Corporal in the R.C.M. Police, presently stationed at Peace River, but with a transfer to Red Deer in July. Heather works with the Peace River Public Health Department. They have three children.

## The Biggeman Family

Joseph Herbert Biggeman came to Canada from Germany in 1914 at the age of seven. He married Yvette Lefebvre of Valleyfield, Quebec in April, 1933. Joseph Biggeman passed away in December, 1980, leaving to survive him his wife, thirteen children, twenty-three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

The oldest daughter Josephine married John Hill of Edmonton, Alberta. They have three children, and reside in McKenzie, B.C. John is public works superintendent and Jo is a registered nurse's aide.

Lou, the oldest son, married Jan Casey of Squamish, B.C. They have four children and live in Coombs, B.C. on Vancouver, Island. Lou is a retired R.C.M.P. He and Jan now distribute Amway products.

Evelyn married Gary Dunn of Winnipeg, Manitoba. She works for Manitoba Telephone System and Gary works for the C.N.R.

Janine married Mel Wenger of Egremont, Alberta. They have three children and live in St. Albert, Alberta. Mel is a foreman for Edmonton Power and Janine works part-time as cashier at The Pop Shoppe.

Marlene married Wayne Fizer of Clyde, Alberta, and they reside in Calgary, Alberta. They have four children. Wayne is a fireman and Marlene is a bookkeeper for Downey Supply.

The next eldest son, Leo, married Julianna Hupertz of Westlock, Alberta. They live on a farm nine miles northeast of Westlock — one mile east of the first Biggeman homestead. Leo and Julie have three children.

The first set of twins, Jeanette and Joan, live in Calgary and Toronto, respectively. Jeanette (Jan) married Ray Weiss of Edmonton, Alberta. They have one child. Joan married Joel Goldenberg of Toronto, Ontario. They have one child, also, and live in Toronto, Ontario. Both girls are secretaries for law firms. Ray works for Eagle Oil and Joel is a lawyer.

Helen married Reg Patrie of Ardrossan, Alberta. They have two children and live in Sherwood Park, Alberta. Helen is a registered nurse and Reg is an engineer.

Bev lives in Westlock and teaches English at the Westlock Senior High School.

Frank and Frances are the second set of twins in the Biggeman family. Frank lives in Calgary, Alberta and works for Mustang Drilling. Fran married Bob Slobodian of Jarvie, Alberta. They both work for Alberta Government Telephones and live in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Joe, the youngest child, is an ironworker and lives on a farm near Clyde, Alberta. He married

Beverly Teslak of Clyde, Alberta and they have two children.

One son Edward was deceased in 1953.

Joseph Biggeman, Sr. settled in southern Saskatchewan on arrival in Canada. His family established themselves and Joseph left in the early 1920's to homestead in Alberta. He lived the rest of his life on a farm four miles east and four miles north of Westlock, Alberta. Yvette's family settled in Alberta from Quebec also in the early 1920's. Their story is one of hard work, survival, and strong family ties.

## **Albert Bilodeau by Alice Gagne**

Albert Bilodeau was born on April 30, 1881 in St. Marguerite Dorchester. In the spring of 1904 he came to Legal, Alberta and homesteaded the SW¼ 22-58-24-W4. In 1912 he married Alma Demers, who was born in Ironwood, Michigan in 1889. Later he purchased another quarter of land, the NE¼ 15-58-25-W4.

Albert and Alma had seven children: Philippe married Marguerite Ihuellou in 1940. He passed away in 1972. Marguerite is retired in Westlock, Alberta. Blanche was born in 1914, passed away in 1932. Alice married Amedée Gagné in 1941. They are now retired in Legal, Alberta. Germaine married Benoit Gagné in 1946. They are also retired in Legal. Rose resides in Legal. Joseph married Lillian Lanouette in 1948. They are at present residing in Legal. Gertrude married Alphonse Gagné in 1950. She now resides in Edmonton, Alberta. Alphonse passed away in 1973.

Together they cleared and farmed the land until 1947. They also helped in the founding of the Boudreau School District No. 3893. Their son Joseph continued farming this land until 1975, at which time it was sold to Hector Huot.

Albert passed away in 1969. He was predeceased by his wife, Alma, in 1949.

## **J. Alphonse Bilodeau — 1897 by Fernand Bilodeau**

Finding farming extremely difficult in the very rocky soil of his home town of Ste. Marguerite, County of Dorchester, Quebec, Alphonse decided to come west in 1917. He traveled by rail to Qu'Appelle, Sask., to work as a farm laborer, he liked the western hospitality, the open spaces and the large farms of Saskatchewan.

While at Qu'Appelle, he was drafted into the First Canadian Reserve Battalion Sask., to serve both in Canada and overseas during World War I. Upon his return to Canada in July 1919, Alphonse decided to join his brother Albert already in the Legal-Vimy

area since 1908. A quarter section of land owned by C.P.R. was available nearby. S.W. 23-58-25 W4 was purchased at the cost of \$22.00 per acre, although heavily wooded this quarter had deep black soil and was free of stones.

The first year kept him busy doing the things



Bilodeau 1928, Alphonse and Marguerite, Annette and Claude. In 1928 Whippet car.

necessary to live on this quarter, like building a house and barn and digging a well and any other time was spent clearing land.

Many things were also happening in the area, the R.C. Parish was formed in Vimy in 1919 and the church was built in 1920, nearby Boudreau School was built in the winter of 1920-21.

After setting himself up and clearing a large area, Alphonse went back to Ste. Marguerite to marry Marguerite Roy in January 1925. Some things were in short supply but there was happiness and in the next few years their marriage was blessed with Annette in 1925, Claude in 1926, and Fernand in 1937.

Like all farmers in those early times, Alphonse had many horses to do field work. For food and income one had to have chickens, pigs and dairy cows; the cream cheques usually paid the groceries.

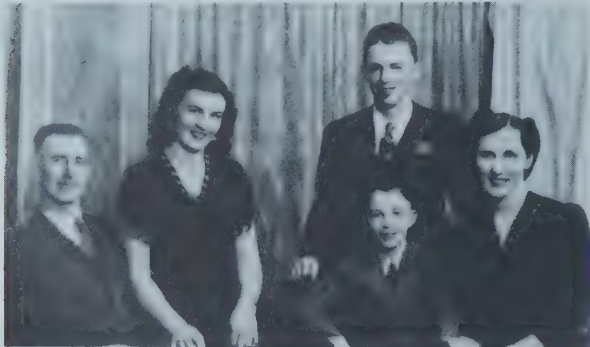
The great depression of the thirties created many hardships, but to people that were almost self-sufficient it was possible to keep going, since goods were still inexpensive.

Alphonse often talks of the large threshing machines and their crews that used to harvest this area in the 1920-30. These large separators were run by powerful steam engines. Their crews would harvest until everyone was done, sometimes well into December. Some of these crews were "Alex Boisvert of Legal, Alphonse Bachand of Legal and Alex Parrent of Jeffrey." They had 8-10 teams hauling bundles to the separator. When they moved to your farm, things had to move right along. The ladies had a heavy work



load since it required feeding 20-30 men. Most farmers would work on these threshing crews to help pay the cost of threshing their own crops.

Alphonse added extra land in 1933; he bought S.W. 22-58-25 W4, and in 1945 S.W. 35-58-25 W4. Both quarters had creeks or rivers crossing them. These were fenced to provide extra pasture for the cattle.



Alphonse and Marguerite Bilodeau Family, 1945. Annette, Claude and Fernand, 8 years.

In 1947 Annette married Laurier Parrent son of Alex, a Jeffrey area pioneer living on N.W. 21-59-24 W4 and set their home on the family farm. The children are Maurice, Paul, Norman, Lorraine and Louis all in the Clyde area. Also in 1947, Claude married Jeanne Mercier of Legal. Their family are Roland, Leo, Elaine and Claudette. Claude farmed locally from 1949 to 1981 on N.E. 22-58-25.

In 1959, Fernand married Solange Boissonnault of Morinville and their children are Alphonse Jr., Suzanne, Joanne and Elizabeth. Fernand and Solange set their home on the family farm and are still actively farming the land purchased from Alphonse.

In 1961, Alphonse bought two lots on main street in Vimy. He had a house built on one, and in the fall of 1962, they moved in, and thus began his retirement. He still loved to go to the farm to help with haying and harvest. He also acquired a love for gardening and flowers, things he never had the time for before.

In 1976, Alphonse and Marguerite bought a house in Westlock, they really loved this house and everything they needed was close by. But Marguerite's health was failing, under constant doctors' care and while in hospital in June 1980, she suffered a fatal heart attack. She was interred in the family plot in Vimy Cemetery.

Alphonse lives in his house during the summer months of 1981-82, but has his room in the Pembina Lodge in Westlock and spends the winter months there.

## Philippe and Marguerite Bilodeau

March 19, 1940 Philippe purchased his farm (SW1-59-26-W of 4) from British Dominion and put in the crop that spring. On July 15, 1940 he married Marguerite Ihellou of Clyde, Alberta. August 2, 1940 he brought his bride to the farm. In 1960 we purchased another quarter of land. Philippe passed away on March 6, 1972. I stayed on the farm until 1976 and now reside in Westlock. We had three



Joe Bilodeau (1) and Albert, fanning grain about 1938.

children. The children started school in Vimy and later finished school in Westlock. Albert, who now resides in Fort Saskatchewan married Glenda Ross of Edmonton in August 1969. They have a girl and a boy. Albert purchased one quarter of land in 1976. Normand purchased the home quarter in 1976 and now resides there. He married Alice Chugg of Grande Prairie in May 1971. They have two boys. Elise, who resides in Clyde, married Julian Shank of Clyde in August 1973. They have four boys.



Albert Bilodeau family, 1932. R to L: Alice, Blanche, Rose, Mrs. Bilodeau, Gertrude, Albert, Joe, Philippe, Germaine.

## The Lyle Birnie Family written by Gwen Birnie

Lyle was born in Wawota, Saskatchewan. He grew up on a farm with his nine brothers and three sisters. His mother, Laura Birnie, is living in

Wawota. She celebrated her 75th birthday in June 1983, an event quite a number of the family enjoyed.

Lyle moved to Edmonton in 1959. He came to Westlock in January 1963 to work for Larry Clarahan at International Harvester. Later he worked at Miller Farm Equipment until 1967 when he moved to Taylor, Pearson and Carson, later purchased by Acklands Ltd. Lyle is presently managing the Ackland Westlock Branch. He is at present an active member of the Curling Club, a member of the Rotary Club and Town of Westlock Fire Chief.

Gwen was born in St. Rose du Lac, Manitoba. I grew up on a farm near Birnie, Manitoba. I am the eldest of four children. Eileen Stewart, my sister, lives in Cochrane, Alberta. My brother, Jim stayed on the farm at Birnie, Manitoba. My youngest brother, Ross lives in Whitehorse, Yukon. My parents, Jean and Earle Birnie live in Manitoba.

I moved to Alberta in 1962 to live with my uncle and aunt Web and Rowena McCracken. In January 1963 I started working for Bob Edgar at Edgar Drugs Ltd., now MacKenzie I.D.A. I worked there until the summer of 1975. In the fall of 1982 I started back to work at the drug store.

Lyle and I were married in 1964. We have three girls — Kim, Arlene and Leanne. on September 3rd, 1983 Kim is marrying Steve Klein, son of John and Mary Klein of Jarvie, Alberta. Arlene will be beginning grade eleven and Leanne grade three this fall.

### Hubert Bishop Family

Hubert Bishop, one of eight children of Byron and Letticia Bishop, was born in Salisbury, Alberta in 1905.

In 1921 he moved with his parents to a farm four miles south and one mile east of Clyde corner. He worked on the farm and worked at road building in the area. Highway 2 was still a narrow strip of gravel which could turn into a quagmire in wet weather.

In 1930 and 1931 Hubert worked as a second man with Joe Reid at the U.G.G. elevator in Clyde. He received a promotion and was transferred to Coronado, Alberta, where he bought grain for the U.G.G.; met and married Mary Munro, the local schoolteacher, in 1934.

Mary and Hubert resided in Daugh, Alberta where two children were born to them; Catherine Shirley and Byron Edmond.

The year 1938 saw the family move back to Westlock, Hubert still buying grain for the U.G.G. The last member of the family, James Roger, was born in Westlock.

Hubert bought out Westlock Billiards in 1948 and operated it until 1974 when he retired.

Shirley returned to Westlock in 1963 after receiv-

ing her nurses training at the Edmonton General Hospital, and became the Director of Nursing and later the administrator of the Westlock Auxiliary Hospital and the Westlock Nursing Home.

She married Fred Morie in 1957 and they had two children, Laura and Pamela. Pamela married Donald Jamieson, son of Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Jamieson of Westlock in 1983.

### The Bishops of Clyde Marrior Tainsh

Byron Bishop arrived in Alberta in 1899 after working on the Kingston Pembroke Railway in Ontario, residing in Oso, near Sharbot Lake. He purchased a farm ½ mile south of Sherwood Park intersection on the Cooking Lake Trail. New Years' Day, 1900 his wife arrived at the Strathcona Station with 5 young Bishops — only to be met by the station agent with a coal oil lantern!

The family lived on the farm until 1912 when they homesteaded in the Viking area, later buying a stable and dray business in Viking.

In 1922 they bought or traded the livery business in Viking for a farm from Mr. Reid in the Clyde District where they settled and lived until their passing.



The threshing crew. Back row, L to R: Owen Jones, Stuart MacLachlan, Verne Decker, Mrs. Gordon Tainsh, Art Edgson. Front row: Bob Tainsh, Frank Jones, Donald MacLachlan, Gordon Tainsh, George MacLachlan.

They had eight children, and except for Mildred, the others resided in the Clyde area. Margaret, the eldest, married Norman Main who served in the First World War. They bought the original Alex Marshall farm in 1919 which had been a stopping place for people settling in and about the area. They farmed, and later retired in Clyde.

Manfred was manager of the Duke of Sutherland Farm for two years. De Vere became a flight engineer



for Consolidated Smelters. Fleetwood (Skinner) attended Normal School and taught for some years at the Bouchard school. Hubert worked with his father on the farm. He later became a U.G.G. grain buyer. Finally he purchased the Westlock Pool Room which he operated until poor health forced his retirement. Brother Jack bought grain and worked in the Pool Room. Marrion (Mrs Bob Tainsh) taught school in Clyde until her retirement.

The only surviving member of the original Bishop family is Marrion, who with her husband, Bob, live in retirement in Clyde. Marrion is very active in community affairs. For over two years she was President of the Clyde District Senior Citizens' Committee which, with grants from the New Horizons Fund, and donations in cash and labor from local citizens built the handsome new "Drop-In" Centre in Clyde. At the dedication of this building in 1982, Marrion had the honor of receiving the Canadian Flag from Don Williams, Coordinator of the New Horizons, representing the Dominion Government, and also, the Alberta Flag presented by M.L.A., Mr. Topolniski on behalf of the Government of Alberta. The flags float gracefully on standards at the building entrance. The bright friendly atmosphere of the interior is an appropriate tribute to the work of Marrion Tainsh and her Secretary-Treasurer, Lila Langford who worked so diligently to make this project possible.

### Lucien and Clara Blackburn

Lucien and Clara Blackburn, with their eight children: Lucienne, Roger, Julien, Lionel, Stella, Emillienne, Emillia and Georgette, moved to a farm located 2½ miles north of Westlock in the late fall of 1940.



The Blackburn family. Standing, L to R: Lionel, Lucienne, Julien, Stella, Roger. Seated: Georgette, Clara, Lucien, Emillienne and Emillia.

The children attended public school at Prosperous school and went on to take high school in Westlock.

Lucien and Clara continued farming in the area until 1958, when they left to take up residence in Stony Plain. Lucien passed away in January, 1979 and was followed by Clara in June 1983.

Emillia (Mrs. Don Campbell), is the only one of the children living in Westlock. They have five sons: Danny, Scott, Robin, Donald and Kurt.

Lucienne (Mrs. Jules Carignan), and Roger, live in Morinville.

Julien, Stella (Mrs. Ed Pink), and Georgette (Mrs. Larry Meads) all live in Stony Plain.

Lionel lives in Grande Prairie; Emillienne (Mrs. Tom Kallal), lives in Westkiwin.

The family was always interested in sports and music.

### Mr. Gaudias Blanchette

Mr. Gaudias Blanchette arrived in Alberta in the spring of 1905, at the age of 21, from St. Edward, Quebec. Travelled by train to Edmonton, the rest of the way home, by horse team.

Looking for new adventure and future new home. Built his first shack the same year and started to open his homestead to obtain his land title in 1907.

He spent his summers working on his homestead, winters working in the State of Washington, to raise money to carry him over the summer months.



Gaudais Blanchette, 1924.

After 10 years in the fall of 1915, he went back east. He got married in February 1916 to Antonine Abel from Lotbiniere, Quebec and lived in Montreal for 13 months. A daughter Lucie was born in December 1916. In the spring of 1917, they came back to their homestead where he lived until retirement in 1954. He moved to the hamlet of Vimy, until he passed away in May of 1959.

He raised a family of 9 children of which Leo, Jeanne, Leonie, Celarine, Leonard, Leon, Victor

and Albert were born here on the homestead. Son Leo died at the age of six months.

His homestead is situated on the N.W. Section 24 T.W.P. 58 RGE 25 W4. He purchased one quarter of land from Mr. E. Boivert in 1927 which is situated S.E.¼ SEC 26 T.W.P. 58 RGE 25 W4.

Then in 1946, he bought a half section from Mrs. Thalan which is situated W half of SEC 25 T.W.P. 58 RGE 25.



Gaudias Blanchette family, 1924.

Son Albert is living on the homestead, Leon is living on S.W. SEC 25 T.W.P. 58 RGE 25.

Leonie (Mrs. Henri Ringuette), Celarine (Mrs. Roger Ouellette), Leonard are still living in the Vimy area. Lucie (Mrs. Philipe Parent) is in Edmonton, Jeanne (Mrs. Johny Ringuette) is in Westlock, Victor is in Whitecourt.

Their impressions of Alberta were isolation and loneliness, because neighbors were few and far between.

Their livelihood was wild meat, with few bushels of wheat that they made into flour.

Our major recollections were a lot of hard labor with the bare essentials of life and many crop failures.

We are very fortunate that our parents came to open this nice productive land, so we can live a life of luxury and freedom.

## David and Lillian Blythe

by Olive Hope

Dave Blythe and his mother came from Ontario in the early 1900's. His mother was originally from Scotland. Dave homesteaded on the SW¼-20-60-25-W4.

While living on his homestead, Dave corresponded with a lady in England, and eventually she came to her brother's home in Ontario, and Dave went to meet her there. They were married there in the 1920's. She was the only "mail order" bride in the district. He made a good choice and they had many good years together. When they returned to the district, after getting married, they were given the usual "shivaree" and gifts from the community. The men in the neighborhood decided to hitch themselves to a buggy and take the bride and groom to Heywood's, where the party was to be held. That was a mile away, and there were some very tired men when they arrived.

Dave and his mother are buried in Dungannon cemetery. After Dave died, his wife sold the farm to Don Hobart. She went back to Ontario, where she spent her remaining years. They never had any family.

## The Bohna Family

by Dale Bohna

The James Christian Bohna family lived in Malheur County, Oregon, USA, and in 1910 the railroad came through our place and rather spoiled it to the extent that Papa decided to sell out to them entirely. He decided to round up thirty-five head of brood mares off the range and take off to homestead somewhere in northern Alberta. He got a covered wagon ready, and along with Grandpa Miller (my mother's father), and an uncle on Momma's side, as well as seven of us children, we started off for parts unknown to find a homestead. At that time, in May of 1910, there were in our family my Dad, James Christian Bohna; my mother, Rosa May Bohna; and from the oldest down the line, James Everett, age 12; Lawen Wesley, age 10; Arden D., age 8; Opal Rosa, age 6; Bernard, age 4; Erma May, age 3 and Dale, age three months, (that was me!).

The three oldest boys drove the horses, or rather, herded them. We arrived near Barrhead in about July, as near as I can tell from the records I have. We rented a place for a while then homesteaded on a quarter section (160 acres). In 1912 another brother was born, whom we named Mervyn, and two years later another brother was born and they named him Charles.

We were the first family to bring horses into the district. In 1913 or 1914 Papa bought a quarter section





James Bohna butchering a hog which dressed out at 531 lbs.

three miles east and one mile north of Busby, from a man by the name of Madden, and we moved down there while still keeping the homestead. In about 1912, my Dad went to an auction in Edmonton and paid Two Thousand Dollars for a Percheron stallion, which weighed twenty-two hundred pounds. We travelled him all around the country and he brought some beautiful big draft horses into that country. I was a bit too young to remember these early days, but it must have been a rough, tough life, then.

In the late winter of 1914, as near as I can get the information, Papa stored the furniture with John Williams, who ran the general store in Busby, and we all took the train for Delaware, where we farmed for one year. Then Papa got two covered wagons together; one big wagon with a team of large mules (Tom and Toby), and a democrat wagon with two small mules (Beck and Rhody), and a buggy with one horse, and we took off again for parts unknown! We were on the road 116 days, and finally landed in Bozeman, Montana, about the first of September, 1916. I was just in time to start my first year in school, which was at the Story Mill School. Well, at that time my Dad decided that the grass was no greener anywhere we had been than it was on our places in Canada, so he and Arden took the train back to get the farms on a paying basis, so that the family could come back later. The rest of us kids (eight of us) stayed in Bozeman. Mama gave birth to another little boy in 1916 in Bozeman, but he died three hours after he was born. All of us kids went to school in Bozeman. We stayed there until the first of June, 1920, then we all took the train and went back to Busby. All of us went except my oldest brother, Everett and my sister Opal; they both stayed in Bozeman.

I was ten that year and my Dad was farming both the homestead and his place in Busby. We would put the crops in at home, then take the mules and machin-

ery and put in the crop up at the homestead. He and I would "bach" in the house at the homestead. Dad and I were real pals and he taught me a lot of things, one of which was cooking. I drove the four mules and the sulky breaking plow. I certainly learned how to work. In the fall we took care of the harvest at home then went up to take care of the harvest on the homestead. I certainly enjoyed working with my Dad.

There is one incident that I remember very clearly. The first year we were back (1920) on the farm, there were some very tall poplar trees on the next section just across from ours. I was over there one day when I saw a big nest about 40 feet up in a tree, so I shinnied up it, to where I could look into the nest. It had two eggs in it, about the same size as a turkey egg. I managed to get one and get back down the tree without breaking it. We had an old hen setting on her eggs, so I put this egg in with hers. As I didn't know how long this strange egg had been set on, I was out there about every hour to check on it! I was there when it hatched and out came a light coloured, downy little bird. I took it out and started giving it mice to eat, and it grew and grew until at full growth, it had a wing span of over three feet. It was a Great Horned Owl, and was a beautiful cream colour. It started eating a hen a day, and when Mama found out about it, I had to get rid of it. That nearly broke my heart!

There's one thing I'll **never** forget, and that is the wonderful people who lived up there. They were no doubt the finest people on this earth. My Mother and Mervyn and Charles sold the place to Henry Edignault in 1929 and came down to Ridgefield, Washington. I stayed until 1929 after taking in the harvest in southern Alberta, as I did every year. I came down to Vancouver, Washington.

## **William (Bill) Bokenfohr Family** by Laura Bokenfohr

Bill Bokenfohr was born in 1932 in Riviere Qui Barre, the oldest boy in a family of thirteen children. He is the son of the late Fred and Olga Bokenfohr of St. Albert.

When he was sixteen, his family moved to a farm in the St. Albert area, where he lived until he got married. His wife is the former Laura Vion of Cardiff, Alberta, and the wedding took place in St. John the Baptist Church in Morinville on April 19th, 1955. Laura was the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Vion's family of four children.

Bill and Laura bought the farm, located on NE 14-58-26-W4, from Mr. and Mrs. Julius Stern. The farm was previously owned by the Borm family. The farm is situated in the south-east area of the Pick-



Bill and Laura Bokenfohr.

ardville district. In their first five years on the farm they spent many rainy days at home because the roads would become two trails of mud holes.

There are three children in the Bokenfohr family. Grace, the eldest, is now a doctor and is living in Regina, Saskatchewan, completing her last year of interning at a hospital there.

Susan attended the University of Alberta, and now resides in Edmonton, where she works for the Provincial Government.

Peter is the youngest, born in 1960. He lives at home and is completing his fourth year apprenticeship. He also helps his Dad on the farm as he intends to be a farmer in the future. Peter enjoys sports, especially hockey, and he has played on the Westlock team recently.



Bokenfohr family; Laura, Bill, Grace, Susan and Peter.

## The Boon Family

by Ted Boon

Edgar Cuthbert Boon was born in England and came to Alberta in 1911, at the age of seventeen. He had always had an ambition to farm, so, through correspondence, he learned of Mr. Quinn Golder, who was connected somehow with the Department of Agriculture in a program to teach young lads how to learn farming. His Dad paid Mr. Golder so much a month for this service.

Edgar was with Mr. Golder for about a year, on Mr. Golder's place, which was the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ -23-60-1-W5, on the banks of the Pembina River. Mr. Golder had the contract to carry the mail from the Pembina store and Post Office, which was located on the bank of the Pembina River where the Bethel Bible Camp is now situated, and was operated by Mr. Harry Letts, to another store and Post Office just north of the Sunny Bank bridge which was run by Mr. Mires. It would often be Edgar's job to make this trip.



Rhoda, Eddie and Ted Boon.

At the age of eighteen, on November 9, 1912, he filed on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -36-60-1-W5 to start his own farm. He worked for a number of farmers in the Pembina district until this was interrupted by the outbreak of the First World War. In 1915 he enlisted in the 49th Edmonton Battalion and went to France. He served overseas for two years, when he was wounded in 1917 and returned to the farm which is located five miles north of the Hazel Bluff Church.

On November 9, 1917, he married Lois Adkins,



the youngest of the Adkins family of twelve. Because he had been a soldier, he was allowed to acquire another quarter section, under what was called a Soldier's Grant. He chose the one adjoining his own, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -33-60-27-W4, which had been given up by Rex Turner.

Eddie and Lois Boon raised two children, Ted, who was born in 1919, and Rhoda, born in 1924. In 1924, both children got scarlet fever, and passed it on to their father (Eddie). He caught a cold going out to do his chores, which proved fatal for him. He died on January 24, 1924.



Ted and Rhoda Boon feeding calves.

After his death his wife (my Mother) had a sale, but we remained living on the farm, although we rented the land to Richard Grant, who lived on the quarter adjoining ours. Later, in 1926, my Mother and Dick Grant got married, and he then came and lived with us.

My sister Rhoda and I started school on February 1, 1926, at the Sunny Bank School, where later, in 1930, a high school was built and classes up to grade XII were taught. By the age of fifteen, in the spring of 1935, my ambition was to have a farm of my own, so I quit school in the beginning of May, to ride the plow and drive the horses. My sister continued on to finish her Grade XII and then went on to graduate from the Royal Alexandra School of Nursing for her R.N. Certificate.

Since the death of my step-father in 1942, I continued to farm, with my Mother, on the original homestead. This farm, being situated on the banks of the Pembina River, was inundated by the first flood that was ever seen, in 1944, when our whole farm and yard went under water. In the time since then until 1980, we have seen the river flood thirteen times.

I married a Westlock girl, Laura Noel, in 1951, and together we raised four children, three girls and a boy, Lois, Wendy, Patricia and Leonard.



Standing, L to R: Gorman Noel, Barry Stanley, Ted and Laura Boon, Audrey (Noel) Modin, Rhoda Boon. Seated: Lyle Noel, Doreen (Noel) Humphries, Theo (Noel) Percy, Edwin Stanley.

My Mother went to live with my sister Rhoda in Edmonton, where she is still living. Lois married Rod Thompson and we have two grandchildren from them, Ryley and Ila. They live in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

### Rudolph Borm and Family

Mr. Borm homesteaded on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  14-58-26 W4 around 1908. He worked at the Cardiff coal mine for the first few years, while proving up his homestead.

The first year he had no land broken because the soil was very wet and boggy. He built a big raft of logs and piled it high with dirt. This is where he planted his first garden. The garden was doing fine until a heavy rain came, which lasted for several days. After the rain stopped he went to look at his garden but it was gone. It had floated about a quarter mile away. He found it, and the garden was still alright!

He had a friend in Edmonton who introduced him to a widow named Mrs. Florentine Schmode. After their friendship grew, he asked her to marry him. They married about 1916 or 1917. She had four children, Sally, Dan, Sam and Bill. She and Rudolph had two more children, Hazel and Albert. The step-children thought the world of Mr. Borm, and he adored them. In fact, they went by the name of Borm until they married and had to take their legal names.

Sally married George Nichol, Dan married Olive Finstead, Bill became the husband of Caroline Pichota, Sam married Irene O'Brien, Hazel became the wife of George Selfridge and Albert married a girl from Germany, named Katie, whom he met while serving in World War II.

Mr. Borm was a hard-working man and was always willing to help some one who was in diffi-

culties. He also had a great sense of humor. Mrs. Borm was also a hard worker. She spun all her own wool and knitted all the socks and sweaters for the family. She taught quite a few other ladies how to spin wool.

Mr. Borm passed away in July, 1935, and Mrs. Borm in March, 1940. Two of the sons, Dan and Bill, have also passed away.

## **The Bouchard Family by daughter Catherine**

On April 18, 1919, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Bouchard, Sr., moved from the Morinville district to Vimy to live on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ -25-58-26-W4, which had been purchased in 1917 from the C.P.R. As a sawmill had previously been near the yard, there was quite a layout of stumps to be cleared away, with much work to be done by hand and with horses.

On February 18, 1920, my mother passed away leaving eight children, the youngest only six months old. The children are: John, Marcelline, Zepherine, Wilfred, Joseph, Adelarde, Simone and myself, Catherine. Mother had been predeceased by one son, Lionel, on June 1, 1915 and by an infant daughter, Delima, on August 31, 1907.



Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Bouchard, Sr.

After Mother died, Marcelline took charge of the household. The winter of 1919-1920 was a long hard winter which caused the death of many cattle; 1921 and 1922 were very dry years but 1923 was a year of bumper crops.

Dad was a school trustee for two terms for the Elk Park school district. My brothers worked for several winters at the Chisholm and Shoal Creek logging camps.

Joseph was Rawleigh dealer for fourteen years. It was interesting to note the large amount of stock that was handled the first year he stayed at home. In the winter, John lent him a team of horses when the roads became impassable for the motor vehicle.

When Wilfred, Jr., went to barber school he also learned bookkeeping at evening classes. He did barbering in various places. He worked for several years as a coal miner and during this time he also acted as bookkeeper for the mine. When he went to Fernie, B.C. he was bookkeeper for the local hospital as well as a miner. For many years he owned and operated a barber shop, until his retirement.

Dad was born on March 8, 1867 and raised at St. Scholastique, P.Q. where the Mirabelle Airport now is situated. Prior to coming to Alberta in 1890 he worked as a farm labourer at Coeur D'Alene, Idaho and Missoula, Montana.



Mr. W. Bouchard and son John hauling load of seed grain over muddy roads. Spring, 1925, Vimy, Alberta.

My mother, Marie L'Hirondelle, was born November 11, 1872 and raised at Villeneuve. My parents were married November 3, 1897 by Bishop V. Grandin. They settled in the Morinville district. My dad delivered mail from Morinville to Mearns for eight years. The winter of 1910-11 he hauled and delivered supplies with his brothers-in-law and nephews from Edson to the mountains for the construction of the railroad through the mountains.

My dad was a coffin maker for the district until he left to live in Vimy.

As my parents home was a stopping place for missionary priests that made their way to further missions, I've been told my mother gave them many meals.

My dad passed away October 31, 1938, and the estate was passed on to my oldest brother, John. He sold the farm in 1965. John and I retired to Westlock in 1968.

Besides my parents, we had some losses in the family: Simone, November 22, 1931; Adelarde November 6, 1936; Marcelline on October 27, 1958 and, as previously mentioned Lionel and Delima.

We were very good friends and neighbors with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nelson, Sr. When Mrs. Nelson



passed away in 1928 her only daughter, Helen, spent some time with us. She was my best friend and in the same grade at Elk Park school. The Nelson boys, Roy, Charles Jr. and Stanely usually came on Sunday afternoon to play ball with my brothers and we kept them for supper. We missed them very much when they sold their farm in 1931 and moved to the city. Mr. Nelson Sr., served in World War I.

A few words about the new settlers of 1904 to 1906. Mr. John Brown, our neighbor across the road from us was a good farmer and hard worker. We missed him when he passed away in January, 1931. Mr. and Mrs. Morissette lived a quarter-of-a-mile from us. We missed them too, when they sold their farm to move to the hamlet of Vimy in 1945. In the winter of 1920-21 they Landry brothers arrived from "la belle province" and stayed with the Morissettes all winter. Years later they owned and operated the General Store in Vimy for 52 years, along with the Post Office. I recall when my dad went to the store I would go sometimes to visit, and usually came home with a generous supply of candy. I would like to mention that the hamlet of Dunrobin became Vimy in April, 1917. It was renamed at the suggestion of Mrs. Benoit Baert in memory of the victory of the 22nd French-Canadian Regiment of World War I at Vimy Ridge, France.

### **The Wilfred Boulanger Family**

In the year 1900, at the age of 18 years, Wilfred Boulanger bid goodbye to his parents and family to try his luck in the gold mining fields on Dominion Creek near Dawson City in the Yukon Territory. He worked there until 1907. While there he met Adelaide Garon, who was to be his father-in-law.

On his way home to St. Elzear, Quebec, he made a stop near Edmonton. Hearing of the availability of homesteads, he went to Pickardville with a friend,

Mr. J. Giroux, and each acquired a quarter section next to each other. They built a small log house on the boundary between the two properties.

After getting this property, they continued on to St. Elzear, Quebec, to visit their families. After staying there for six months, Wilfred returned to his homestead in the west, but Mr. Giroux stayed in Quebec. In the meantime, Adelaide Garon had not fared too well in the goldfields, so Wilfred Boulanger invited him to bring his family and take Mr. Giroux's homestead.

Since Wilfred was a bachelor, he invited the Garon family to stay in his log shelter until such time as they could acquire their own.

The little log house was furnished with the bare necessities many of them home-made. Our father spent spring, summer and fall clearing land the hard way, making necessary improvements on his homestead, but spent the winters working elsewhere. He did many things; logging, railroading and mining, while the Garon family kept the place going in Pickardville. They had horses with which to do their farming. They kept cows and chickens as well.

Around 1910, Wilfred found his way to Merritt, B.C. where coal had just been discovered and mines were opening up. I remember he told us of how he missed the stage coach, drawn by horses, from Princeton, B.C. so he and some other fellows walked from there to Merritt, a distance of approximately fifty miles.

While in Dawson, Wilfred had learned a bit about steam engineering, in which he was very interested, so later he took a correspondence course and received Fourth Class papers. He continued his studies and on December third, 1920, received his Third Class certificate.

He worked in Merritt until the fall of 1913, when he returned to Pickardville for the event of his marriage to Evelina Garon, which took place on January 20, 1914, in the little church in Pickardville. This church has since been demolished and replaced with a much larger edifice. Father LeCerf performed this wedding. Wedding receptions then, were much different than they are in the present day. All the women would get together with the bride's mother and cook a great, delicious dinner. Most of the food prepared was home grown and the kitchen must have been a place of very busy, chattering women, working with a right goodwill, and it would be difficult to imagine the delicious odours permeating the place!

After the excitement, the couple went to the little log house, where the bride, our mother, proceeded to give it a homey air of her own, as she was very adept with a needle and quite artistic. The Garon family were now in their own place.



Wilfred and Eveline Boulanger. 1940.

For two years our parents resided in the little log house. In that time, two girls were born to them, Eva and Irene. Eva (myself) was very spoiled in that time, as mother had two younger brothers aged four and six, when I was born. Amadee and Philippe constantly protected me from any spankings, etc., and catered to my every whim.



Wilfred Boulanger family, 1971. L to R: Eva, Irene, Wilfred Jr., Philippe, Evelina, Helene (Conway Brown), Phyllis (Brunelle), Jeanne (Amundsen), Maurice, Tom, Marie Annette (Purves), John.

We had a beautiful St. Bernard dog, named Busco, who was like a nursemaid to me. My parents, my uncles and aunts told me stories of how this dog looked after me. One story in particular, intrigued me. There was a ravine about twenty-five feet deep, not too far from the house. It seemed that I liked to wander toward it and the dog was instructed to keep me away. One day I was not in sight, so mother called the dog several times, but no usual answering bark came. So, very perturbed, Mother and her younger brothers started searching. I was found! The dog's forefeet were planted firmly just over the edge of the ravine. Since he was holding my clothes tightly in his mouth, he would not give the usual assuring bark. I think of that dog very lovingly, for if he had not been there, I might not have been here, writing this tale.

After two years spent on this farm, Papa decided that farming wasn't really what he wanted, so he sold his farm to Adelarde Garon, our grandfather, and returned to Merritt in the fall of 1916. He immediately got a job as a steam engineer in the pump house of Middlesboro Collieries. He rented a house, got it ready, and in January of 1917, Mother followed, with two little girls, one being two years and three months, and the other eleven months. Somehow a mistake had been made and instead of taking the Canadian National train, which was a quicker and more direct route, she took the Canadian Pacific to Calgary, where she had to transfer to the Kettle Valley Railway to reach Merritt. The trip took three

days by C.P.R. rather than twenty hours by way of the C.N.R. For a young, 21 year old mother with two youngsters — Eva being spoiled and Irene just a baby, it must have been quite an experience. To top it off, she could scarcely speak English, and B.C. was an English speaking Province. A very anxious father waited at Spencer Bridge, where they were finally reunited and all was well.

The Boulanger family lived in Merritt until 1944. In that time eleven more children arrived on the scene, making seven girls and six boys altogether. Our father often jokingly and lovingly referred to his seven girls as "his seven biggest mistakes."

Life was pleasant in Merritt. Papa finally bought a four acre place, with two acres of field, of which half an acre was vegetable garden and one and a half acres was pasture for our milk cow. One acre behind the house was all woods, and such good times the children had playing in those woods!

In 1931, at the beginning of the depression years, Papa sent Eva to the Assumption Convent in Edmonton to learn French. In 1932, Eva and Irene returned to the Convent and Wilfred went to the Jesuit College. At that time, not quite knowing the fate of the mines in Merritt, Papa purchased a half section, the south half of 22-58-26-W4, east of Pickardville. I believe he rented it out for a while, but a few years later, sold it again to Euclide Blais. The mines took over the City light plant, so Papa was assured of a job throughout the depression years.

On February 9, 1943, tragedy struck in our loving household. Our Mother passed away very suddenly, leaving a mighty big hole in the family. By this time, I had been teaching seven and a half years, so I took a leave of absence for an indefinite period and went home to help our Father with the children, the youngest being two and a half years old.

The following year saw the closing of the coal mine in Merritt, so Papa went to New Westminster and found a job almost immediately in the steam plant of the Royal Columbia Hospital there. Three months later, the rest of us followed him, and we have resided in Surrey ever since.

Papa retired in 1955, but on March 10, 1957 he succumbed to a heart attack and was buried in Merritt beside his loving wife. What became of the children of this couple who began their life together pioneering in Pickardville? They fared well, due to their parents, who were great advocates of education.

Eva. Born in Pickardville in October, 1914, became a teacher and taught for thirty-five years, and is now happily retired. She did not marry, but helped to bring up seven brothers and sisters, and lives in Surrey, B.C.

Irene. She was also born in Pickardville, in Feb-



ruary, 1916, and became the wife of Tom Rintoul. They had two boys, who are both married. They have five grandchildren and live in Surrey, B.C.

Wilfred. Born in Merritt, B.C., in June 1918. He is living in Surrey and is a bachelor, with a master mechanic's papers.

Leo was born in Merritt in May, 1920. Was killed on the beaches at Normandy in June, 1944.

Philippe. Born in Merritt in August 1922, is married to Betty (Higginson). They have four children and three grandchildren and live in Merritt, where Philippe is a teacher.

Evelina. Was born in July of 1925, has never married, and is a secretary in the Cargo Dept. of C.P. Air. She lives in Surrey.

Helen. Born in Merritt in June, 1927, she later became a registered nurse. Her husband is George Conway-Brown and they have four children and three grandchildren. They were with the R.C.A.F. for a while but are now running a ranch at Elnora, Alberta.

Phyllis, another Merritt baby, was born in April, 1929. She was a teacher for some time, and is married to Gerry Brunelle. They are living in Vernon, B.C. and have five children and one grandchild.

Jeanne was also born in Merritt, and was a practical nurse. She married Roy Amundsen and they have six children and live in Burnaby, B.C.

Maurice is a graduate engineer of U.B.C., who was born in April, 1933 at Merritt and is now living in Surrey with his wife and one child.

Thomas is also a graduate engineer from the University of B.C. He was born at Merritt in February, 1935 and is married to Annie Urbanovits, who has borne him seven children. They live in Surrey.

Marie-Annette arrive in January, 1937, and took up teaching. She and her husband, Peter Purves have raised five children. They are living at Salmon Arm, B.C.

John, the last child to be born in Merritt is a mechanic. His birthday was in May, 1940. He married Judy Poley and they have two children.

### **Napoleon Bourgeois Family**

Mr. and Mrs. Bourgeois came to live on the NE 24-56-28-W4 in 1916. Mrs. Bourgeois taught school at the Elk Park School. They also had the La-Calamette Post Office after Mr. Bacon was injured in an accident and could not run it any more. Napoleon carried the mail from Vimy Post Office to La-Calamette.

Mrs. Bourgeois was also a step dance teacher. It was always a pleasure to see the family step dancing together, and this included Napoleon, too.

Their family consisted of Laurette, Joseph, Re-

gina, Yvonne, Francis, Anthony, Anna and Emile. Most were born while their parents lived at the farm.

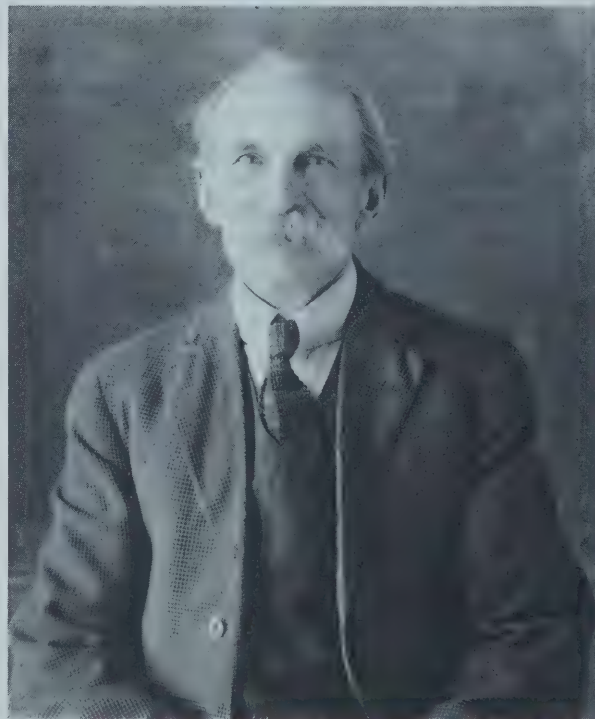
In 1930 or 1931 they moved to Mystery Lake. Some of the last of the children were born there.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Bourgeois have passed away, as well as Francis, Joseph and Regina. Laurette lives in Blue Ridge and Yvonne in Whitecourt, The others, I am not sure where they live. There was also a brother of Napoleon, Harmidas, who lived across the road from them, and a nephew, Wilfred, sometimes came and stayed with him.

### **Thomas Bowen**

by A. E. Larson

Thomas, Bowen, formerly of South Wales, who was in 1915 the pit boss in the Cardiff collieries, four miles west of Morinville, decided that farming in Alberta had more future than there was in the coal mining industry. After much travel to different areas he decided that the Westlock district was his choice. After many trips with his son-in-law, August Larson, staying in the small hotel then owned by Bill Hergott, two quarters of land were chosen within reasonable distance of Westlock. The first, Old Tom, as he was



Thomas Bowen, 80 years of age.

later to be referred to, was a half mile south of the newly formed village. This was the S.W. quarter of 32-59-26-W4, and had no buildings, and although

on several occasions he was advised not to consider it because of lack of water on the place, he did buy it. Thomas Bowen was a very stubborn and determined man, and his entire life was made up doing what he wanted, and taking very little advice from others. Having an uncanny ability to witch for water, he decided the first attempt would be made about two hundred yards from where the road was to be built. At this time he was staying with his daughter and son-in-law, who will be mentioned under separate cover. He and August started digging this well, and at twenty feet, an underground stream was struck, which nearly caused the death of August. Only his past experience as a deep water sailor, and his ability to climb a rope bare handed, and the co-operation of Tom at the top of the well, saved his life. The water was within two feet of ground level, as fast as he was getting out. For many years, water was hauled to livery stables and other concerns from this well.

Later the two men built a small house with a shack type roof in the middle of the quarter and this became Thomas Bowen's first home on the farm. Later, a large addition was added to make a comfortable home where, with the exception of two years, 1921 and 1922, spent at his daughter's house in Ladysmith, on Vancouver Island, he spent the remainder of his life, passing on in 1942. His remains are interred in the Westlock cemetery a quarter of a mile from where he spent most of his life.

I have endeavoured in compiling the history of my grandfather and parents to make it as brief as possible. This information on advice from other members of the family, old papers and letters. Any errors or omissions, my sincerest apologies as there was insufficient time given to give a complete history. Much of the information came from my grandfather, with whom I stayed for many years.

### **Garf and Louise Boyd**

When Garf finished school he went to work at Hide's Garage as a mechanic for about three years. It was about 1941 or 1942 that he joined the R.C.A.F. and took his flight engineer's training in Ontario. He was posted to England late in 1942 or early 1943 — memories get a bit clouded with the passing of time.

He flew thirty-two bombing missions over France and Germany. There was at least once when they did indeed "come in on a wing and a prayer." The "kite" had run into heavy anti-aircraft fire and limped home full of holes.

He enjoyed an extended leave the last few months in Britain. Headquarters had mislaid his orders. He came home in July, 1945 for a month's leave before he was to go to the Japanese front. However, he was in Halifax on his way to Japan when the war was over.



Lorne and Garf Boyd Jr.

Garf came back to Westlock in the fall of 1945 and took over his dad's elevator. Dad Boyd was very ill and they discovered he had cancer.

In May of 1950 Garf married Louise (Blondie) Wist and they lived in the house on the highway with Mother Boyd and Bella until Mom died in 1951. Bella stayed on for a number of years before she bought her own house.

Garf and Blondie have three children. Debbie was born in 1951, Randy in 1953 and Sandy in 1956. Debbie has a good job with AGT in Edmonton and lives in St. Albert. Randy works at Kopper's International, the culvert plant here, and Sandy at the Bank of Montreal.

Garf quit the elevator in 1969 and went to work for the town of Westlock doing general maintenance in the summer and looking after the arena in the winter. Blondie has worked at Renaud's Hardware for some time.



A few years ago when Carl Wist died, Garf and Blondie bought the farm just west and north of Westlock. Randy and Sandy live on the farm and Sandy has a place to keep her horses. Garf also enjoys puttering about the farm feeding horses, mending fences — whatever there is to do or be done in his spare time.

Both Garf and Blondie are active Legion members and Blondie is quite a lucky bingo player.

### Garfield and Olive Boyd

Garf was born in Brantford, Ontario in June, 1883. He moved west with his family to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan about 1900. His father, a teacher, died shortly after they arrived leaving his mother Sarah, to raise nine children by herself.

Before the days of elevators, Garf travelled through Manitoba and Saskatchewan buying grain directly from the farmers and shipping it by carloads to central terminals. About 1912 Garf was working in the Prairie Grain office in Edmonton and living at Mrs. Johnson's boarding house on Rice Street.

About the same time Miss Olive Carlin had ventured into the city to work in Dr. Harrison's office. Olive had been born in Sweden in March, 1888. The family emigrated to Minnesota in 1899 and came to Canada in 1903. They settled in Rich Valley where they ran a stopping house for new homesteaders. Olive also stayed at Mrs. Johnson's boarding house. Romance bloomed and Garf and Olive were married in Banff on June 26, 1914.

As the railway lines spread out through the province, elevators were also built. Garf travelled the province opening elevators and buying grain. Olive stayed in Edmonton where Ora was born in August 1915 and Bella in October 1916.

The family moved to Galahad, Alberta when Garf bought grain there, and then on to Alliance where Garf Jr. was born in August 1920 and Lorne in April 1922.

In 1923 Alberta Pacific built a new elevator in Westlock and Garf came to operate it, moving his family up shortly after. They lived in the Dunlop house by the creamery, across from Roch's bakery. Pat was born in 1924. During this time Armitage's store was the most popular place in town with the younger set. You could buy a big bag of candy for a nickel.

About 1928 Garf went on the road again as a supervisor, travelling through the Peace River country. He drove a 1927 Chev over roads that were often impassable. He told us many times about driving down the railway tracks on the ties. He even discovered that at about twenty-five to twenty-six miles per hour the ride was really quite smooth. Sure beat



Mrs. Garf Boyd.



Mr. Garf Boyd Sr.

the roads! Of course there were always train schedules to contend with. There was even one trip that he had to ship the car home by rail. And we complain about our roads now!

During this time Olive moved back to Edmonton with the family, where they lived on the south side. The kids remember walking across the High Level Bridge to go to shows at the Rialto theatre. The show and a big bag of candy cost ten cents.

The four oldest children attended King Edward Elementary School there. I guess even teachers moved west in those days. A Miss Lang, who had taught Garf Sr. in Ontario many years earlier, was now teaching Garf Jr. in Edmonton. Olive really had her hands full with five mischievous youngsters in the city. Garf was losing touch with his family and decided the life of a travelling man was not for him. He took over the Alberta Pacific elevator in Westlock in 1930 and moved his family back to stay. They lived in the old Campbell house on 107 Street. The house was near the tracks and many a hobo found a free meal at the Boyds. Olive felt sorry for the "boys of the road" and never let one go away hungry. About 1932 the Boyds moved to the Edgar Stanton house where the Pembina Chapel is now. They lived here for about fifteen years.

When the printing office burned down in the thirties, Lorne and Garf, along with a few other

young boys in the neighborhood, gathered up all the lead. They melted it down, and, using Mother Boyd's jelly mould tins, made fancy door stops. These they sold from door to door. I'm sure there are some still around.

Both Garf and Olive were avid curlers. Archie Munn, an old timer in the Clyde area, often told us of curling in the Briar with Dad Boyd in Winnipeg about 1906 before either of them came to Alberta. Garf, Joe Renaud and Jimmy Hunter were among those instrumental in getting the first curling rink built in Westlock in the early 1930's. It was down by the creamery on 107 Street. Both Olive and Garf were familiar figures at all the bonspiels around the country for many years.

During the summer months Garf turned to his second love — baseball. He coached the Westlock baseball team for many years. It was a top notch team.

We were now into the War years. Ora and Garf Jr. were in the air force. Lorne and Bella were both married and Pat was working in Edmonton. Garf and Olive busied themselves with the war effort, helping hold rubber and scrap metal drives and various other projects to raise money.

Just a few days after D-Day, Danny, their first grandchild was born. He was the apple of Grandpa's eye. Garf spent many hours teaching Danny all the things babies should know and probably never learn without grandparents! A second grandson, Bob, was born in 1946.

When the war was over Garf suggested the money on hand be used to start a fund for building the Memorial Hall. Louise (Blondie), Garf Junior's wife, is now secretary of that same Memorial Hall. It has served the town well for many, many years.

In the fall of 1945 we discovered Dad Boyd had cancer and in may 1947 he died at the age of 63. Olive followed soon after. In December of 1950 she had a stroke. While she recovered quite well, her vocal chords remained paralyzed. She never regained her speech which made the last year of her life often frustrating. She died in November of 1951.

### **Lorne and Daisy Boyd**

When Lorne was about sixteen he started working part time as an auto body apprentice at Ray Hide's garage. When he finished school he stayed there with Jack Stibbards until he got his license.

Lorne lined up with his friends at the recruiting offices but they tested his eyes and sent him home. He left Ray's garage and went into partnership with Tom Maloney in a shop of their own.

Lorne had Garf's 1930 model A Ford convertible which he kept in top shape. The little car made a lot of



Lorne Boyd, Capt. Graham and Daisy.

trips between Westlock and Clyde and in March 1944 he married Daisy (Nelson). We were married in Barrhead by a Scottish chaplain from the First World War — Captain Graham.

Our first home was the former engine room of Dad Boyd's elevator. It was tiny, only about nine by sixteen, but cosy and we didn't have any rent to pay. There was a little door in the wall near the ceiling connecting it with the office above. Father Boyd and I spent many, many hours during the next year talking and drinking coffee through that little door. He in the office to answer the phone, and me sitting or going about my work at home. I have always been glad we lived there because I would never have had the opportunity to get to know him so well otherwise, and I would have missed so much.

Shortly after our first son Danny, was born, we moved to Clyde where Lorne ran a body shop for my dad (Abe Nelson). By the fall of 1949 when we could finally afford a very belated honeymoon, we left behind three small boys; Bob was born in 1946 and Wayne in 1947; with their grandparents.



Bonnie was born in 1952 and that summer we moved back to Westlock to stay. Lorne worked at Doherty's Garage operating the body shop for about twenty years before moving over to Rex Dawson Ford to open a shop there.

When we first came back to Westlock, we lived in a little house across from the Anglican Church for about five years. Kim was born and our Chinese son, Fred, joined our family while we were there. We have lived in our house on 106 Street now for nearly twenty-six years. Jim and Shelley were born in 1960 and 1963 respectively. A large family means lots of friends and our house was always full of kids.



Daisy and Lorne Boyd and family, 1973.

The only holiday we took for years was a month at Clyde Lake camping every summer. The Cameron family and the Boyd family, plus guests, usually as many boys as Lorne could cram into the station wagon when he came from work each night. We had a big frame tent that slept about a dozen and it was always full. It was a lot of work, but fun. They were all a great bunch of kids and the Camerons and Boyds are still very close friends.

I went to work for Beaver Lumber for about nine years before the store closed in December 1982.

The years have flown by bringing their changes. The kids grew up and married and presented us with a total, so far, of eight wonderful grandchildren. The oldest, Shiela, is going to University this year and the two youngest were born in February. We have five lovely, chosen (by our sons) daughters and one son. He's great too.

Dan and Eileen (Gower), Shiela, Stephen and Scott live in Edmonton. So does Shelley.

Bob and Linda (Boutin), Lissa, Robby and Gillian are in Red Deer, as are Kim and Nancy (Miller).

Wayne and Hazel (Doherty) live in Calgary and Jim goes to Mount Royal there.

Fred and Cathy (Green) and Krista are in Morinville and Bonnie and Bill (Hunka) and Michael live in Sherwood Park. All close enough to visit often.

Lorne is still working at Dawson's and I am now free to babysit occasionally. Lorne is still an avid sports fan. He doesn't coach hockey any more, but he follows the Oilers closely as well as the Eskimos football team. We are settling, quite contentedly, into our little rut. We are comfortable here in Westlock among friends and close to our family.

## Beatrice Alberta (Huyck) Breadner

My Father was born at Port Hope, Ontario; my Mother was born in the United States; I was born in Coral, Michigan on December 15, 1902, and am the youngest of a family of six. Three sisters; Leah, Sarah and Rachel are now deceased, as is my brother Leonard. My sister Mary, is now a resident in Leduc, and I live at the Pembina Lodge, in Westlock.

I was not quite three years old when our family moved to Alberta, in 1905, the year of Alberta's joining Confederation.

After a short stay in Wetaskiwin, we moved to Pigeon Lake where my Father filed on a homestead. We lived five miles from the Post Office at Bonnie Glen, which is in the area of Wizard Lake, now a very rich oil field.

Pigeon Lake is fifteen miles long and eight miles wide. Many a time I have gone there boating in the summer and skating in the winter. My son and his wife and family have a cottage at Mission Beach, which is near the north end of the lake. My Father's farm was located 1½ miles from the east shore of the lake.

The older children in our family were educated in the United States, but Mary and I rode horseback, or drove a team and buggy or democrat to school, which was 3½ miles from our home.

Mary and I became good horseback riders. One November day, when we were riding the same horse, I was bucked off and fell hard on the frozen ground. I was out like a light and became very sick to my stomach. Mary and a neighbour helped me back on the horse (Mary crying all the while) as she knew I was badly hurt. When they got me home, my parents put me to bed, where I regained full consciousness after midnight, and was very sick again as a result of the concussion. It was many days before I was better. I vowed to get even with that horse and rode her many times after that, but always held on to the lines tightly so that she didn't dump me off again.

When I was six years old, our folks began to work out — Father at the Lacombe Experimental Station and Mother as a cook there. Mary, Leonard and I went to school in Lacombe. In a couple of years our

family moved back to Pigeon Lake, where we raised a large garden and lots of really nice potatoes which were hauled by wagon over very rough roads for long distances, to sell in the neighbouring towns.

When I was ten, a number of friends and some of our family went out on a raft on Pigeon Lake. The raft up-ended and I slid off into the lake, but came up puffing and blowing with my wet hat in my hand. Mother, who had stayed behind to finish baking the bread, came on the scene just in time to dry me off and wrap me in a blanket.

In winter, many young people of the district would gather to enjoy skating on the lake. What happy times we had!

At that time, Ma-me-o Beach, at the south end of Pigeon Lake, was a great berry picking spot for saskatoons and huckleberries. One day, when we were picking berries there, we hid our pails behind blankets to shield them from the hot sun. My sister, Rachel, was emptying her pail into one of these large pails when brother Len walked up, saying in a gruff voice, like that of an Indian from the reserve, "Pick no berries on the reserve." My goodness, Rachel sure jumped in fright!

It wasn't many years before campers and people from town bought land and built cottages around the lake; no more berry picking then.

There was a reserve only a mile from our place. Sometimes the natives would have a "war whoop" with fire water or liquor. We would know a war whoop was coming because the natives would gather dried cow manure for their camp fires. At night we could see the fires and smell the smoke. We would put out the lights early and stay awake listening to the sounds, especially if Dad happened to be away selling produce or hauling lumber for the camps.

In those days there were vast amounts of timber in that area, and many men worked in the saw mills or at hauling lumber to Millet or Wetaskiwin. My Dad worked hard to make a living.

About 1910, my Dad decided to quit working in the lumber business, so he got a fishing licence which enabled him to fish with three hundred yards of net. Fishing season always began on my birthday, December 15, and would last until the middle of March. Mother and Dad would usually haul in five hundred to six hundred fish in the first haul of the day, and at the midnight haul he would get many more. My parents spent many cold days on the lake, pulling in nets and setting them properly. Pigeon Lake was bad for air-holes in the ice. One cold, dark night, a fellow with a lovely team of horses was crossing the lake when the ice gave way, and the poor fellow lost his lovely horses. Once, my parents, lost in a blizzard on the lake, let the horses have their own way,

and came safely to shore, miles from home. Another time, a button on my Mother's coat became caught on the net. Sensing the danger as the net pulled away, she gave her coat a sharp jerk and freed herself.

One time, Leonard fell through slushy ice into the cold lake water of late March. My parents rescued him, wrapped him up and told him to hurry home. In a day or two he began to have shaking spells and felt terrible. My Father went to the nearest phone (a mile away) to call the doctor in Wetaskiwin. The doctor came by horse and cutter to our place, arriving at midnight. Len was very sick and having convulsions by this time. He was wrapped in hot, wet blankets and given the medicine the doctor had brought with him. Len was a strong boy, and made a good recovery in a month or so.

My Mother died in 1943, and my Father in 1947. They are buried in Bonnie Glen cemetery.

## **The Carman Breadner Family** **by Beatrice Breadner**

After my sister, Mary, left school, I (Beatrice) had to go alone. I was the last chick of the family, and it was a lonesome ride by myself. In 1919 my sister, Sarah, who lived in Clyde, wanted me to come to her place so that I could attend high school.

That fall was the year of "The Flu". People wore masks over their noses and mouths to help keep from catching the germs. However, I got the Flu very badly — nose bleeds, bad headaches, which have bothered me every since.



Beatrice Breadner sitting in Carman Breadner's Ford in front of the brick school, 1927.

I finished school in 1922 and on December 14, of that year I married Carman Breadner and went farming again, five miles north and west of Clyde. We had a lot of hair-raising experiences on that old farm, I can tell you!

One day Carman was outdoors repairing his old Ford touring car. I was in the house washing clothes. Suddenly he came running into the house, his hair



fairly standing up on his head. "I nearly got buried out in the barnyard," he said, "You know that place in front of the hen house, where there seems to be a ridge of dirt in a circle, all overgrown with rose bushes? I bent over to pick up a plank, and the ground just gave way beneath me. I only just managed to crawl up on the bank, and save myself". The previous owner had left an old well loosely covered with planks; it was almost Carman's deathtrap!

Our first child was a girl, Irma, now Mrs. Art Lyons. She was sure a nice wee kid. She and Art have a family of three girls and two boys. Lea (Mrs. M. Plandowski), Bea (Mrs. Duff Felker) and Betty (Mrs. H. Gerrits). Bob, with his wife and family, live at Cloverdale, B.C. Sandy and his wife, Gaylene, live in Edmonton. All of these attended school in Westlock.

Our second daughter is Emogene (Jean) Cameron, who now lives in Westlock. She has four married sons; Roy of Linaria; Wayne of Langley, B.C.; Kenneth of Pincher Creek and Harvey of Edmonton. All were raised in Westlock.

Then there is our son, Cleve, who is a mechanic and welder in Edmonton. He and his wife, Thelda, have four children, all grown now.

We left the farm in 1961 to live in Westlock. My husband died in the Westlock Nursing home on April 26, 1972. I took up residence at Pembina Lodge on January 9, 1970. I enjoy driving my own car and crocheting as a hobby.

I look back over seventy-seven years in this province and remember how much work it took to raise a family and help my husband build a farm in the early times of the Clyde District, and all the good times we had, too.

## **The Breault Family**

**by Hectorine — Mrs. Gedeon Nadeau,  
Pickardville, Alberta, 1982**

In 1900 is was Grande Brule N.W.T.

The Breaults originated from Kansas, U.S.A. The climate there didn't make things too prosperous for them; drought and tornadoes, heard them mention ever so often of cyclones they called them. They decided to try for greener pastures in around the year 1890. Some of the boys (Como) brothers of Mrs. Breault got the urge to come to Alberta to see what prospects there were of making a decent living.

In the beginning the family settled in Riviere Qui Barre. Uncle Louis Breault was the first to venture to Pickardville. In 1908 he took up a Homestead on the NE of Sec. 1, Tsp. 59, Range 27, W.4. His brothers helped him build a two storey house which was still standing a year ago. Pat, Henry, Napoleon, and

Charlie followed a few years later. In those days a person could acquire a quarter of land for \$10.00.

Here is where Hectorine comes in — It was in 1912 that Uncle Louis took me in to stay with them for a month or so, at eighteen months old. During these few weeks things were going good for Aunt Adelina, having a child around the house was their delight. It was to be that I stayed with them until I married in 1941. I had a good home with them, a genuine upbringing with love and some very good care in every way. They never had any children of their own. My parents, Alfred and Ella Como had a family of 6 boys, my brother George is a twin, I was the only girl.



Mr. and Mrs. Louis Breault and Hectorine (Mrs. G. Nadeau).

The Breaults had many a good time together and would associate with everyone. They didn't mind driving for miles with team and buggy to visit with friends and enjoy themselves, generally on Sunday afternoon (never on Saturday) or they would invite folks in for dinner after Mass.

They were lovers of music and talented as well. Some of them could sing beautifully. Uncle Louis and Auntie were asked ever so often to provide the music for dances and house parties — that is the violin and organ.

The event of Christmas was always a thrill to me, with the Manger and little Jesus, and naturally for a child, the coming of Santa, I would look forward to it



The Breault family before leaving Kansas for Alberta. Back row: Napoleon, Pat, Josephine (Girard), Louis, Emma (Trugeon), Charly. Front row: Henry, Louise, Grandmother, Moise, Octave.

every year. There was one special Christmas that stands out in my mind. I was only four years or five years old. Uncle Pat Breault came over acting as Santa with beard and all. They woke me to come see him. Oh! I was impressed alright, but so scared. He really put on a show. He was great around kids and a teaser of course.

Gedeon and I have four boys, Richard, Philippe, Noel, and Charles. Three are married and we have five grandchildren. Richard is still with us farming some of our land. They are all doing well for themselves, hard workers like their Dad.

The Breaults will long be remembered for being charitable, sympathetic, looking after the sick to no end.

We were surrounded by good neighbours. Mr. Phillips lived across the road from us then Mr. Bill Shaw took over his place, later on Adonias Cloutier got it. His mother and Dad lived just North of us. The Pickards lived a mile South of our place and here the first Post Office was opened. The Pickardville district was named after these folks. Many a time, Mrs. Pickard would come over to give us support, whether in sickness or health. They offered their services willingly. It is with feelings of pride, happiness and

loneliness that I recall these fond memories of all those dear folks.

The Breaults have many descendants, but they have moved away to different trades and occupations. None of the boys have retained their home place, farming didn't appeal to them that much. The ones remaining are Raymond, Jacque and Roland. Octave, their Dad was the last one to come to join his brothers in Pickardville.

In the beginning these two names were written like so — my family name was "Como" and Pickardville with a "K".

### **The Brettelle Family** written by Harold Brettelle

In 1905, when he was twenty-one years old, my father William Brettelle, came from near Coventry, England to a homestead N. E. 3-60-27 West of the fourth meridian, just west of the Wabash Creek. There, he met and married Dorothy Adkins.

My mother's grandfather had homesteaded in Vancouver, B.C., on what is now part of the English properties on the North Shore. Mother's parents homesteaded just east of the Wabash Creek, part of which ran through their farm. My mother was the



fifth born of seven girls and there were five brothers. They all helped to pioneer the district. Two of the brothers, Mart and Will were killed in action in World War I.

My parents' family consisted of five children: Norman, the oldest, was born in a part of Edmonton called Skunk Hollow — the north east end of Queen Elizabeth Park. Dorothy, who now resides in Burnaby, B.C., and I were born in Strathcona. Charles was born at my uncle Alf Adkins farm at Westlock, and Laurence was born on our farm at Westlock.

My father was a bricklayer by trade and in the early 1920's moved the family back to Edmonton where he worked at his trade and did contracting. Eventually, they returned to the homestead using uncle Alf's ox team and following the trail for four days.

I always remember my beginning at school — a one room school just east of Wabash Creek. Louise Leake (later aunt Louise when she married George Adkins) was my first teacher, and had grades one to eight in her class. We children crossed the creek on a large spruce tree that had fallen across the creek and had a rail on one side. At that time the Wabash was full of fish and the water so pure and clean you could drink it.

In the early thirties there was no work in the cities so I would go back to Westlock to help with the harvest — once walking all the way to Wightman's place. I was given a job with the understanding that if I missed my turn at the separator, I would lose my job. However, I worked for thirty days straight. The first week, my hands were sore and bleeding — however, they soon toughened up. After all, I was making \$1.50 a day driving a stook wagon, and I also stooked for Mr. Robbins at \$1.00 a day.

Sometimes we would be in the field before daylight and the only way you could find a stook was to fall over it. Sometimes at night a light was placed on the separator so we could bring in an extra load after dark. I also threshed with Andy Smith. The Smiths were a big family, but they could always find another place at the table. I also worked for my uncle Mac MacDougall, and I thought a lot of him, as I could always stay with him.

## J. Brockie Story

John Brockie arrived in Canada from Banffshire, Scotland, in 1907, at the age of 19. He was followed by Elizabeth Ralph in 1912 and they were married in May of that year in North Portal, Saskatchewan. She was accompanied from Scotland by John's sister, Elizabeth, who became Mrs. Fred Allen.

After working in the North Portal district, they moved to the Medicine Hat area. They worked on a



Brockie and Illington Filling Station, Westlock.

ranch in the Cypress Hills and later moved to Redcliffe, where they had a homestead. Their oldest daughter Edith was born shortly before they moved to Westlock.

They reached Westlock in the fall of 1919 and stayed the first winter with the Fred Allens, on a farm south of Dios Smiths. The following spring they moved into town and lived across the corner from the Creamery. This is where their son, Ian, was born; the first Ian in town, followed by Ian McLean and Ian Gilchrist.

Mr. Brockie opened a second hand store, which was later enlarged and became the outlet for Massey Harris Machinery and Wallis tractors. Around 1923, Mr. Brockie's mother arrived from Scotland, with William Brockie and Agnes, who later married Harry East and still resides in Westlock.

In October, 1925, Mrs. Brockie, with Edith and Ian, went to Scotland to visit her family. Their youngest daughter, Alberta, was born in February in Rothes, Scotland. When they returned in June, they moved to the Stover house on the base line. This house was gutted by fire and the property was later sold to Charlie Marshall, who built a stone house on it.

Around 1927, John Brockie and Jack Illington opened a new service station and warehouse — probably the first in Westlock, with Massey Harris implements being sold from a separate office in the building. It was located between the Hotel and Montpellier's house.

In 1929, Mr. and Mrs. Brockie and family moved to the Sunnybank district, where they farmed until 1936, when they moved to Edmonton. Mr. Brockie operated a grocery store until 1945, a Milk bar until 1952, then worked for the Provincial Government until he retired and moved to Mission, B.C. in 1958.

Mrs. Brockie passed away in May, 1971 and Mr. Brockie in December, 1980. Ian and Edith live in Okanagan Falls, B.C. and Alberta lives in Edmonton.

## The Brooks Families

Although the Brooks families did not move to Westlock until the 1940's Mr. and Mrs. Andy Brooks had an introduction to the town in the early '20's when they lived here for a short time while Andy installed the first lighting plant. This plant was located in a building just east of the present fire hall.

On their return to Westlock in 1940 Andy and Ted Leake operated a garage on Main Street and sold Case machinery. Bob, Betty Anne and Bill were attending school, but Jim stayed in Camrose where he was working. He later joined them and worked in the garage, too.

When Andy joined the army in 1942, Mrs. Brooks, with Betty Anne and Bill, moved to Spirit River to care for her elderly mother. In 1943 Jim moved to Dawson Creek when the building of the Alaska Highway was in full swing. In the same year he married Vera Crone. Bob was then working in Vancouver.



L to R: George Sterling, Anne Hide, Mrs. Brooks, Ray Hide, Andy Brooks, at Quiet Lake, Yukon, Canol Road, 1954.

Following Andy's discharge from the Army in 1945 there was an influx of Brooks to Westlock. Andy returned to establish Brooks Motors and was joined by Bob. Mrs. Brooks, Betty Anne and Bill, along with Granny Hull, came back and they took up residence in the house situated where the Central Medical Clinic now stands. Andy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Barnes Brooks, pioneers of the Spirit River area, moved here as well as their daughter Flo Richards. Their son Clark and his wife Marie and family also arrived as Clark filled the position of mechanic at the garage. In 1946 Jim also joined Brooks Motors. "Old Uncle Jim", brother of

Barnes, by then elderly, was persuaded to move here, too. He had journeyed to the Klondike in '98, was well known in the Peace River area, and had many great yarns to tell. As time went on Betty Anne took a Comptometer course and worked in Edmonton until she married Gerry Ellis of the R.C.A.F. They were stationed at various points throughout Canada and now reside in Vancouver. Bob married Linda Blades, and Bill joined in the garage business. He married Noreen Guest. Clark, Marie and family moved to the coast for a time as well as Flo who had remarried.



Andy Brooks 40th Wedding Anniversary, Feb. 19th, 1959.

In 1959 Mr. and Mrs. Andy Brooks retired to Penticton where the Welcome mat was always out to old Westlock friends. After Bob's death, Linda and the two children moved to Edmonton, and Jim and Bill operated the garage until it burned in 1961. Mr. and Mrs. Brooks remained in Penticton until their deaths. Bill and Noreen and Jim now live there.

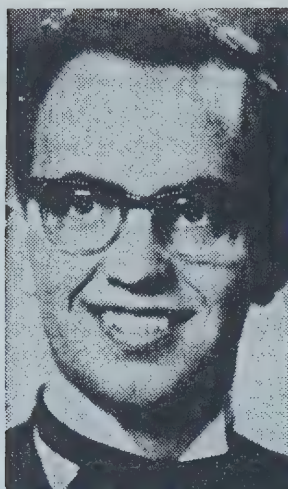
During their years in Westlock the Brooks were active in the town. Andy served as a Councillor for a number of years. Mrs. Brooks was a hard and faithful worker in the United Church Women's Organization. Jim was a Kinsman and Bob was an Elks member. Andy and the boys all curled and Bob and Bill were hockey players. The whole family enjoyed camping and fishing expeditions. As well, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Brooks were noted for their fine hospitality and enjoyment of friends in their home.

## Fred Brook

The SE¼ 14-60-27-West of the fourth meridian was where Fred Brook lived with his parents around 1916. An only child, he attended Sunny Bank school No. 2771.



J. A. Brook.



He was very intelligent and easy going. His main interests were of the mechanical variety. Later the family moved to Edmonton, Alberta, where Fred married and raised a family.

In 1966, John Andrew Brook, Fred's eldest son, a graduate student in philosophy at the University of Alberta, was chosen as Alberta's Rhodes Scholar for that year. The 22-year-old Edmontonian was selected over nine other candidates. The scholarship at that time provided about \$2,700 a year for two, and possibly three, years of study at Oxford University in England. At the time of the award, Fred Brook was retired and his wife was teaching in Parkview Junior High School.

Andrew is presently teaching in Ottawa where his wife is also a teacher. They have two sons.

## Archie R. Brown Family

by A. L. Brown

Born in Wolford, Ontario on Jan. 22, 1880, he attended Wolford school in his primary grades. He took his Jr. High at Smith Falls and finished his education at Athens, where he obtained his teaching certificate c/a 1898. He resided on his father's farm until 1900. He then joined the 6th Regiment the Canadian Mounted Rifles. After serving in South Africa, he returned to Canada and was discharged April 26, 1902.

That same year he worked his way West by hiring on as a pole climber for a Telegraph company. He went as far as Moosomin, Saskatchewan where he was employed by their local paper "The Moosomin News". After a short stint there he moved on to Leduc, Alberta, where he began his school teaching, living and teaching in a wooden floored tent. It was here he took up his first homestead.

That winter (1903-04) must have been too cold for him because he left there for Lovelock, Nevada.



Archie Brown and Mary Warren on their wedding day, 1910.

Here he was foreman on a ranch belonging to his bachelor uncle. After about a year riding fence lines (this was about a thousand acre ranch), in spite of the fact he could have increased his fortune considerably, he left there for California. There he took work as a bookkeeper in Riverside for a firm of accountants "Revillon Bros."

In 1906 he returned to Alberta along with his brother Jim who had since joined him about 1904 in California. On the way up they viewed the devastation of the famous San Francisco earthquake and took many pictures.

1907 was the year he arrived in Riverdale, Alberta to take on the task of teaching the children of this fledgling settlement. Among them were such fine and notable people we know of today. To mention a few there were the MacDougalls, Bella, Mac, Christina, Alice, Phoebe and Jenny, The Allens, Olive and Cliff. These and many others of his students became very respected and loved pioneers of this area.

In 1909 he moved to his permanent farm. This was a South African Script land and located on the W½ of sec. 3 Twp. 60 W5. From here he travelled daily to teach school at Edison. He rode horse back, a distance of 18 miles return, until about 1915 when he stopped teaching and started farming full time.

1912 was busy for Archie as he covered the whole area by horseback selling shares for the promotion of the U.G.G. elevator, which was subsequently built. In 1914 he was made secretary of the Westlock Agricultural Society.



Archie Brown, 1880-1966.

Mrs. Archie Brown (Neily), 1970.

Mary Maria Warren, Archie's childhood sweetheart came west in 1910. They met in Calgary in September and were married there. Their honeymoon was spent travelling by horse and buggy back to Archie's home at Hazel Bluff.

Here Mary took a great interest in the local church. She was organist for a few years. Also in this new but thriving community she participated in local ladies' organizations such as the Ladies' Aid, Farm Ladies' Group, the local choir group etc. She ably and unselfishly gave herself to the promotion of the community in the short 20 years she spent with us here.

From this marriage three children were born — Russel in 1911, Charlie in 1914 and Leslie in 1919. Mrs. Mary Brown passed away in February 1933 at the age of 53.

In 1937 Archie married May Bernice Neily, a district school teacher. There were no children from this marriage. Neily passed away in 1976, ten years after Archie died.

Generally within the years from 1910 until 1932 Archie served on the executive of many organizations, both provincially and locally. Among these were the Alberta Wheat Pool, both Northern and Central Alberta Dairy Pool, United Farmers of Alberta. He acted as secretary of the Hazel Bluff United Church for many years. He was also on the Westlock Consolidated schoolboard for 33 years. About 1919 he helped move the old Swallowhurst School into the Town of Westlock. During the process it became stuck on the railway tracks. A train came barreling down the rails creating a great deal of panic. Archie was hurriedly sent down the tracks to flag it down and was successful. It was often questioned afterwards as to why they sent the man with the shortest legs to do a job like that?

In 1932 he took a full time job as Homestead Inspector. From then until the time he retired this was

probably his longest job. He covered the whole areas of Improvement District #107 and 108 by train, team, car and by foot. Attached to these activities he was a pension advisor and many a time he stretched the act, without breaking it, so that the truly needy benefited.

Because of his experience, desire for truth, and high moral values, he was often called upon for his excellent timely advice to friends and neighbors in their public and private lives. Throughout his life he was able and willing to render his community an invaluable service, up until the day of his death, August 24, 1966.

### Doug and Vera Brown Family

In 1951, the SW¼ 5-58-26-W4 came up for rent through the office of the Public Trustee in the city of Edmonton. Nelson Brown applied to rent it for Douglas and Gordon in the spring of 1951. There were a lot of people interested in the same quarter. Luckily, we were the first to apply, and our terms must have been satisfactory to the Controller of the Public Trustee, who was handling the estate of the late Mr. and Mrs. Matthews. They had owned this land.

Mrs. Matthews liked carpentry work, so helped build all the buildings on the farm — a house, barn, hog-barn, chicken house, machine shed and garage, plus six wooden granaries, all of which were here when we took over the farm.

The first year that Doug and Gordon operated the place, the crop consisted of 109 acres of barley and



Doug and Vera Brown family. Back: Dwight, Douglas and Murray. Front: Colleen, Vera and Bonnie.



thirty acres of pasture. Unfortunately, it was a wet fall and a large part of the crop stayed out, some in swaths and some in stooks. The swaths stood the winter much better than the stooks, which were very badly infested by mice.

In the fall of 1953 a small herd of beef cows were moved on to the quarter and Doug spent the winter looking after them.

After "baching" for two winters, Doug decided that wasn't the life for him. During the late fall, or as it turned out, the early winter, Doug married Vera Jean Sterling of the Westlock district, the eldest daughter of Russell and Jean Sterling, on November 5, 1955.

Here we started a new life together, looking after cattle, raising a few hogs and chickens as a mixed farming operation. Near the end of our harvest in 1956, a son, Dwight Douglas was born. He is now the owner of Brown's Chrysler dealership in Westlock. He married Lynne Arth in 1979.

A second son, Murray Nelson, was born in the spring of 1958. Murray is still farming with his dad and mom. After attending the University of Alberta, Murray decided farming was what he really wanted, so he came back home to start farming with his dad.

The winter of 1957-1958 was a winter of new records of snowfall, with about 100 inches of snow, and a lot of washed out roads in the spring. Many cars and trucks had to be pulled through the numerous holes on our road, what is now known as Secondary Highway #794. At that time it was called the Riviere Qui Barre road, a main drag, but was not the best by any means.

Time went on and a daughter, Colleen Ida, was born in the "wedding month", June 13, 1960. Colleen was married to Bernie Prefontaine on May 30, 1981, and lives in the Legal area. Bernie is an electrician and farmer. Colleen spent a number of years working at "Masterfeeds" in the city.

The days drifted into weeks and weeks into months, and then years, and then another daughter was born in 1962 in the middle of seeding time, on May 17th, Bonnie Dale became our fourth child. Shortly, Bonnie became known as "Bonnie Jo" or at times just plain "Jo". Bonnie married Randy Kreiser on August 20, 1981. Randy is a farmer and electrician, and they live on a farm in the Dapp area.

All four of our children started school in Busby, and continued there up to Grade VII, then finished their schooling in Westlock, where they all graduated. Bonnie was the only one that was interested in music. She played for services in the Busby United Church for some time. Her husband is a drummer, so Bonnie, Randy, Uncle Charles and Aunt Judy Sterling have a band called "The Evening Sound."

Doug has been working with the Westlock Agricultural Society since 1949. He has been vice-president for at least two years. He was also the leader of the Echo Hill 4-H Club for a number of years. He has been a member of Unifarm for a long time. We have also been involved with the Busby United Church, which Doug helped to build in 1962. We have held the office of secretary treasurer for the church for twenty years. Vera has belonged to the Echo Hill W.I. for at least twenty-five years, also the U.C.W., having held offices in both organizations. She helped Doug a lot when he was leader of the 4-H movement.

The old Matthew farmstead has changed a bit. A new cattle shed was added in 1967 and a hog barn. In 1965 we built a large split-level home. Later, we moved the original barn to a new location and replaced it with a new Zipperlock steel building. An arch-rib was also built the same year and finished the following year. A large hay and cattle shed was erected a few years before the other buildings. There have also been a few steel grain bins added.

The old house still stands in our farmyard, with its many memories. The house was small but we enjoyed the many good times (and not so good times). It was not insulated, so when the east wind blew we didn't spend much time in the kitchen or east rooms because, I used to say, "I'm sure the walls just slow the wind down."

One New Year's Day it was very cold and the wind was blowing from the north-west. We just had a little wood heater in the living room. We had to hang blankets over the living room door and windows, and stayed as close to the fire as possible; but where there is lots of love there is always a good time. We had card parties, meetings and lots of visiting in our little old house. Wonderful memories which will always be with us.

Doug and his dad and all the children have taken an active part in the Westlock and District Fairs as long as we have been married. The children were showing calves and cattle since before they started school. When they were old enough they belonged to the 4-H Beef Club and the girls also belonged to the sewing clubs, which resulted in about seventy trophies in our family room, which the children won.

Now the children are on their own, it just leaves Doug, Murray and Grandpa to do the showing of the cattle at the fairs.

We have lived twelve miles south of the Westlock Inn on Highway 794 for the last twenty-seven years and we hope to live the rest of our days here, too. Our door is always open to anyone in need, visiting or otherwise.

## The R. E. (Earl) Brown Family

Earl was born in Lacalmette, and received his public schooling in the Springfield School, later attending the Vermillion School of Agriculture. He purchased his first quarter of land in 1945, and has been farming in the same area ever since.



R. E. Brown family: Earl, Esther, Donna, Roberta, Barry, Lyle and Beverly.

He married Esther Buchholtz in 1951 and they raised two sons and three daughters. Donna and her husband, Walter Petrie, and family live at Hinton; Roberta is at Brooks; Barry and family are living at Westlock; Beverly and her husband, Gordon Hansen, make their home in Palma De Mallorca, Spain, and Lyle is farming with his Dad and also has a quarter of land of his own.

The family was very active in many organizations in Westlock. When Edmonton's "Klondyke Days" implemented the Farm Family Awards, Earl and his family were the first recipients from the Westlock area to be recognized and honored with the award, in 1972.

Dairying was their main source of income until 1981. They are still active in the various organizations, and mixed farming provides their livelihood. Raising Percheron horses is Earl's Hobby and Esther is well known for her handicraft.

## The J. A. Brown Family

by Hazel Anderson

Dad met Mom (Maud Rendell) in England in 1917 when he was stationed at Borden Camp with the 67th Battalion of the Highland Scots. They were married in March, 1919. They settled on a farm in the Hazel Bluff district; the farm was bought through the

Soldiers Settlement Board. At that time, right after the war, prices were high, and all the soldiers who took up farming became deeply in debt to the Soldiers Settlement Board. Land clearing was done with axe and dynamite, and Dad's health was poor due to being gassed in the trenches at Vimy Ridge, so Mother had to learn to swing an axe and milk cows and harness horses. Then prices started falling and the depression set it.



The Jim Brown family, 1927. Jim and Maude, Lillian, George and Hazel.

Here is a clipping taken from Hansard of November 24, 1932, wherein Mr. Spencer, M.P. for Battle River, was fighting for a better deal for agriculture, and especially for the farmers who were indebted to the Soldiers Settlement Board.

Quote — Mr. Spencer — "I wish to direct the attention of the house to the type of farmers we have, who are putting up a courageous fight, men who, when they went on the land thought that they had at least a chance of making homes for themselves, even if they might not make money. I refer to our returned soldier settlers. — I am continually having brought to my attention, cases of real hardship if the one-third of the crop is collected from the soldier settlers, which is due from them to the board. I am not going to bother the house with many of these cases, but I will put two of them on the record.

"The first comes from a man named J. A. Brown of Westlock, Alberta. His total crop comprised of 828 bushels of wheat and 870 bushels of oats. If one third is deducted for the Soldiers Settlement Board he will have remaining 552 bushels of wheat and 580 bushels of oats. After deducting seed and elevator



dockage, he will have remaining 480 bushels of wheat at twenty-six cents a bushel or \$124.80; 480 bushels of oats at eight cents a bushel or \$38.40, making a total of \$163.20. This man has school taxes to pay amounting to \$54.00, municipal taxes \$22.45 and a threshing bill for \$67.50, or a total of \$143.95, and if you deduct that from the larger amount it leaves him with a balance of \$19.25. He has a family of four to keep until next year, and he says in a letter he has written me, that 90% of the other boys around there on Soldier Settlement farms are in the same fix . . .

"The next man is J. G. Adkins, Jr. His total crop amounted in value to \$327.00, and if he deducts for the Board \$109.00, it leaves him \$218.00. His school and municipal taxes and threshing bill and binder twine amount to \$201.36, leaving a balance of \$16.64. This man has a family of seven. He tells me his original debt in 1920 was \$3,000.00. He has paid back \$2,000.00 and still owes \$3,696. . . . I am quite sure the Prime Minister and his colleagues in the government must realize the serious situation of Agriculture in this country."



The last of the school gang on our road. Albert Lyons, Kathleen Lyons, Margaret Cameron, Phoebe Lyons. In front Jim Brown and Don Lyons, about 1942.

Dad was fortunate in getting a job driving the school bus from Hazel Bluff to Westlock. The base line road was a holy terror until it was gravelled. In spring time the bus could only make it to Woods' corner, then Freeman Woods and Dick Adkins would take us on in wagons to Westlock School. In winter, the road would sometimes be blocked for a week, until the government snow plows cleared a path for the Barrhead-Edmonton bus, then Dad got through

with the school bus. The only heat we had in the bus was from the exhaust pipe which ran under the middle seat. In cold weather the stench from burning rubbers was awful. Everyone had frozen feet at one time or another, and we would have to sit through school and endure the swelling and chilblains afterwards.

It was tough for us country kids going to school in Westlock, as our well patched clothes were quite a contrast to the town kids with their nice crisp dresses. Many a feud broke out in the lower grades and Lill Brown and Clara Astill were the defenders of the country kids, Lill with her fists flying like a windmill and Clara with her feet kicking like a mule!

We all took our schooling in Westlock and I started in 1930. The Grade Ones were in a small one-room schoolhouse just northwest of the big school. There was a wood-coal heater at the back and a wash stand with a water pail and basin. My first teacher was Miss Chard. Whenever an airplane went over, which was not very often, the whole class would race to the window to try to see it, and our teacher usually helped us spot it. Anyone caught swearing received a good soaping of the tongue, and the strap was standard equipment for every teacher. All other grades were held in the big school, and my teachers were: grades two and three, Miss Blue, grades 4 and 5, Ivan Sutherland, 6 and 7, Kay Olsen, 8 and 9 Rita Sterling, 10 and 11 Miss Fjell and grade 12 upstairs was Mr. Edwards and then Russell Patrick. The janitor was Mr. Larson, and he did everything, such as cleaning the school, running the boilers in the winter, as we had steam heat there, filling the drinking fountains, cutting the grass in summer, cleaning the outside toilets and he even took time to fix our shoes!

We grew up with the Lyons kids as they lived just a half mile away, so we had to learn to defend ourselves at a very early age as there were so many of them. I wasn't much of a fighter but I didn't have to worry because Lill was such a good scrapper. She was nicknamed "Dempsey" and the boys would give her a nickel if she would punch some other kid in the nose. To her it was just a straight business deal, and she didn't care who they wanted her to punch. She even pasted the policeman's daughter, Muriel Illington, just to get a nickel.

The school bus was kept in a garage over at Uncle Archie's on the **hiway**, as our road was dirt and when wet it stuck to our feet like glue. We always walked to and from the **hiway** with the Lyons kids, sometimes on good terms and sometimes bad. I remember one time Lill was home with a cold, and the Lyons kids started fighting with George and me. Well, I was no fighter, but I could sure run when Art was after me. I fled, yelling my head off for Lill. She heard my

screams and out she came on the tear. Art fled, and before long Lill was at George's side battling it out. It didn't do her cold any good, but Lill wouldn't miss a good fight for anything.

The only fruit in the winter, besides our own preserves, was dried apples and prunes. Dad called the prunes "C.P.R. strawberries," and we had lots of them. Mother used to threaten that if we didn't stop swallowing the prune stones she would get the doctor to cut us open and remove them. Well, one afternoon, who should drive in at the gate but Dr. Henderson. Lill and I panicked, as we were sure he had come to cut us open to remove those prune stones. So up the lane we tore to Lyons's. We burst through the kitchen door and shot past Bella and up the stairs and under the bed. It took a lot of coaxing before Bella could get us to come out, and then only when she said she wouldn't let any doctor touch us. We had great faith in her physical strength, and since Dr. Henderson was a lot smaller, we agreed to come out.

In the summer evenings all the neighbour kids would gather at Lyons's to play "Run-sheep-run". Or else we would all walk down to the Wabash to swim. Those were the days of the old cotton bathing suits that clung like a wet rag, and how we hated them. After some people got cars, we would drive to the Pembina River at Antonson's to swim.

Mother took great pride in the Hazel Bluff Church and marched us off to Sunday School come rain or shine. She was an artist at elocution, and was called upon to perform at all church "do's." She kept the crowd in stitches when she recited "My Poor Feet" and many others. The harvest chicken suppers at the church were an occasion to look forward to. After Lill learned to play George's guitar, we often sang in the program put on after the supper. I remember how we shocked Rev. Moss one time when we sang "Roll Out the Barrel" in the church.

The Christmas concerts in the church were another highlight of our time. We would practice on Saturday afternoons in the church kitchen, and could hardly wait for the night of the concert. I remember the time Lill played the part of an angel and she was all dressed up in white muslin and tinsel and carried a big white wand. She made a perfect angel and everyone was so pleased. But that night, after we got home, the angel influence vanished. In a scuffle she knocked me flying into a pail of skim milk and the whole thing went sailing across the kitchen floor, milk everywhere. Dad was a man of few words, and he turned Lill across his knee and broke the angel wand on her backside.

Partridges and ducks were plentiful in those days and Dad was a good hunter with his double-barrelled shot gun. Mother could make the most delicious stew

with partridge and lots of fresh vegetables, topped with dumplings.

When Dad came in from the field to take the bus back to town for the school kids, Mother often took over the horses and plow until he came back. Lill and I would follow Mother around the field and eat the white roots that the plow turned up. Mother was horrified and was sure we would die, but Dr. Henderson assured her it was okay. One time Lill stuck her finger in the cogs of the seed drill to poke at the grain, and got the end of her finger cut off. Another time she ate the Paris Green that Dad had hidden in the pump-house, and Dr. Henderson said that all that saved her was the fact that she ate so much she threw up. She was awfully sick for a while. Mother's hair turned white at an early age, and no one was surprised!

We used to skate up at Gordon Guest's, down by their spring. Marie Guest always had a big kettle of hot chocolate and lots of cookies waiting for us afterwards. Then Jim Adkins made a proper rink just north of his house and we all bought season tickets and skated there many winters.

Lill and I always belonged to C.G.I.T. and we rode with the Lyons girls in the sleigh to the meetings in the winter time, and walked in the summer. Our leaders were Margaret Lyons and Gladys Wilson. Sometimes we would go to camp at Lac La Nonne in Gladys' coupe, or in the back of Joe Baxandall's truck.

Mother was an avid gardener and her vegetable garden was enormous. Every day she carried buckets of water from the well in the barnyard to her garden. Young Jim would always wait until he saw her heading back with her pails full, then he would ride after her on his big grey horse. Mother would panic when she heard the pounding of hoofs coming and she would take off as fast as she could, water flying in all directions. Mother never could get used to our sense of humour.

The best part of the year was harvest. Mother would be busy for several days preparing for the threshing crew. Lill and I were supposed to help her, but as soon as Bert and Fred Lyons pulled in with their tractor and threshing machine, off Lill and I flew to follow the outfit out into the field. We were always amazed at how the threshing machine could chop up the bundles and spew forth the grain and the lovely golden straw. We could barely wait for the straw stack to settle so we could go "mountain climbing" on it, or dig tunnels through it. Bert Lyons could tell more tall tales than any one I ever knew. When he and his brother Fred would come in off the threshing machine, they always had a tale of suspense to tell us kids, and we believed them. I remember Fred came in limping one day, and we asked what



happened. He pulled up his pant leg and showed us his dirty black leg and solemnly said he had "black leg" and we really felt sorry for him.

When Jimmy was only seven years old, he got rheumatic fever which left his heart in a weakened condition. He was in bed for about five months and grew about six inches in length. Jimmy used to go camping down by Uncle Archie's slough with his pals Bruce and Gary McGlone, and Don and Rod Adkins. They would sneak into Aunt Niely's hen house after dark and catch a nice plump hen and roast it over a bonfire. One time they got sick, either they cooked the hen before it finished kicking or else ate it too raw. Anyway, Jimmy came staggering home the next day, minus his underwear.

George and cousin Les Brown belonged to the Alberta Dragoons, under the command of Roy Merryweather at Westlock. They trained at Sarcee Camp near Calgary, in the summer, and their first year was quite an ordeal as they were rather green to the trials of war. When war broke out in 1939, Les joined the R.C.A.F., but George failed to pass his medical, and was assigned to guarding the armouries at Westlock, along with Clive Gardham. When all the munitions were finally shipped out of there, George went to work for McKenzie Air Plant in Edmonton.

Lill joined the Airforce in 1942, and went overseas to England in 1943, where she remained until the end of the war.

In the spring of 1947, Dad and Mom sold their farm to George Lyons and bought a house in Nanaimo, B.C. They lived there until Dad was hospitalized in 1966. He died in February, 1967, at the age of eighty-four years, in the Colonel Belcher Hospital, Calgary. Mom died in September, 1968, at the age of seventy-four years.

George married Helen Hay of Edmonton, and they had two children, Alex and Sarah.

Lillian married Constable Al Harvey of the R.C.M.P. and they had three children, Lynne, Murray and Howard. Murray died at three months, and Al passed away in May, 1964.

Hazel married Clare Anderson and they had three children, Ken, Judy and Michael.

Jimmy married Joan Wiegand of Morinville, and they had two children, Ross and Sharon. Jimmy passed away in September, 1964 at the age of thirty-one years.

### **Les and Doris Brown Family**

Leslie Arthur Brown was born in 1919, the third son of Archie and Mary Brown who were pioneers of the Hazel Bluff area. He was educated in the Westlock school. During World War II, he served in the RCAF as a Wireless Air Gunner. When he returned

from overseas, he joined a surveying crew at Toobally Lake and Smith River where they were constructing an airport for the Alaska Highway. He then worked for Boeing Aircraft in Vancouver as an Instrument Inspector.



Les and Doris Brown at Wonnock, B.C. June, 1944.

In 1945 Les returned to Westlock and will be remembered by many of the farmers in the area as partsman at the I.H.C., a business owned by Mr. Cliff Fender. Later Les worked for the Alberta Government as a Land Assessor in Calgary and Wanham. For a short while he was the Imperial Oil Agent at Wanham, then moved to Dawson Creek where he worked for Northern Freightways and the I.H.C.

In 1956 Les and his family emigrated to New Zealand, where he worked for the I.H.C. in Auckland. They soon returned to Canada and he worked for several companies as a partsman in Vancouver, before returning to Westlock again to work for Pembina Motors, the M.D. of Westlock, Acklands Ltd., Jerry Marx Mobile Homes, The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance, Westlock School Division and The Rex Dawson Ford Motor Co. In 1977 Les went to the University of Alberta to take a course in Appraisal Work, which he did in the Westlock area for a few years.

In 1943 Les had married Doris Julia Stanton, youngest daughter of Egar and Bessie Stanton, who were pioneers of the Hazel Bluff and Westlock areas. She had worked in the Bank of Montreal in Vancouver and later with a firm of Chartered Accountants in Dawson Creek, and with Mr. Stan Bott C.A., in Westlock.



Charlene and Jocelyn Brown, Graduation May, 1968.



Les and Doris Brown, 1980.

Three children were born to Les and Doris Brown. Larry died in infancy. Charlene and Jocelyn both graduated from the Westlock High School. Charlene married Donald Larsen, who is an Electrical Engineer with Dome Petroleum in Calgary. They have two sons, Derek and Jeffrey. Jocelyn married Wayne Cameron, who is a Director of Public Affairs with Trinity Western College in Langley, B.C. They have a son Ryan, and a daughter Christina.

Les and Doris have retired in their home on the acreage near the Westlock Golf Course. She is active in the Westlock Art Club, and also conducts an Aquacise Class for Seniors at the Westlock Swimming Pool during the summer months. Les keeps busy with his hobbies.

### **The Nelson Brown Family by Clara Brown**

Nelson came to Alberta with his parents, two brothers and two sisters, from Bruce County, Ontario, in 1912. His father, George Brown, came to manage the demonstration farm at Medicine Hat for the Government of Alberta, under Agriculture Minister Duncan Marshall. They were there two years, then moved to the same type of project at Sedgewick, where Nelson had the job of dairyman. One winter he attended Olds Agricultural College. He left the government employ and worked for a farmer for a year, then moved to a farm five miles from North Edmonton, where the family had land rented.

From there, he came to the Springfield district in 1922. He and his uncle, Jack Brown, rented the Charles Bacon land, one and a half sections of bush lease was for three years. At the end of the lease, Jack went back to Ontario to settle some business. Bacons



Clara and Nelson Brown on Wacky Saturday.



then rented the land to Nelson for one more year. At that time, Nelson was to have some of Luther Bacon's land at Alcomdale to rent, but somehow, the deal fell through and we narrowly missed being Independence people.

In 1922, Nelson married Clara Charlier. When we were not able to get the Luther Bacon place, we started looking for another place to go to. The SW¼ 18-58-25 W4 had been up for sale and was supposed to have been sold. We found out that that deal had not been settled and the place was still for sale, so we decided to buy it.

In April of 1926 we moved to what we called "the shack" for many years: in fact, we still call it that. We had two children by then, Earl and Eleanor. That summer Nelson got forty acres cleared and broken, and from then on we never looked back.

The family now consists of ten children, nine of whom started school at Springfield School District #1495. They are Robert Earl, who farms in the district and whose story he will tell himself.

Eleanor married Harold Hornland. They have four sons and live in Calgary.

Doris married George White. They have two sons and one daughter and live in Vancouver, B.C.

Douglas married Vera Sterling and farms in the Busby district. Their family consists of two sons and two daughters.

Gordon married Peggy Lamb. They have four daughters and one son, and farm in the Westlock district.

Helen married Edwin Kallal. They have four sons and one daughter in their family, and farm near Westlock.

Norma, who is married to Allan Northrup, lives in Sherwood Park with their three sons.

Phyllis became Mrs. Donald Sterling and they reside in St. Albert.

Shirley lives in Calgary with her husband, Michael Dick and two daughters.



Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Brown. 1963 Fair Parade.

Dee, whose home is in Ottawa, is married to Dr. Ronald Kurtz.

Nelson was on the Springfield School Board for several years and was serving in that capacity when the new school was erected in the early forties.

As the family grew up, Nelson started a 4-H Club in Vimy. Later, he and Russell Sterling started the Echo Hill Calf Club, which operated successfully for many years. Nelson has been a member of the Westlock Agricultural Society for a long time. In the early 1950's he acquired some purebred Hereford cattle which he and the boys (mainly Douglas) have continued to raise ever since. He and the family showed cattle and horses at the Westlock Fair for a good many years. His horses were a feature of the Fair Parade, as long as he had them.

Now semi-retired, we still live on the farm.

## The Rhad Brown Family

by Helen James

Mr. and Mrs. Rhad Brown and family left Entwistle and moved to Estlock in October, 1924. Mother and the children by passenger train and Dad came by boxcar and brought all our furniture and a team of horses.

They had six children then; Harold, Helen, Lloyd, Lynn, Douglas and Jean. Stuart was born after they came to Westlock at Mrs. Dinwoodie's Nursing Home.

The Browns settled into their new house on 104th Street in 1926.

With the team of horses Dad started his dray business. It was a busy business at that time, in fact, he ran two teams some of the time. Two big jobs that



The Rhad Brown family. Back row, L to R: Harold, Lynn, Helen, Lloyd, Dad. Front row, L to R: Doug, Stuart, Jean, Mother.

Dad had early in the business, was hauling the bricks from the railway siding for the first brick school and the hospital. They hauled the mail, the cream to the creamery, groceries and also coal to nearly everyone in town.

Dad was on the United Church Board, a member of the Masonic Lodge and sang in the church choir. I remember choir sessions with "Stutch" — Mr. Stutchbury — leading the choir and sometimes me on the piano. It was a real fun time.

My Mum was a great worker in the "Ladies Aid" and helped Mrs. Allen, (the Minister's wife) with the Mission Band. Raising her seven children was a full time job. Harold, the oldest, married Mary Enders, who worked in Lindahl's grocery store. Harold passed away in 1973.

I (Helen) married Cecil James. I met Cec when I was teaching school at Highridge. We still live on our farm near Westlock.

Lloyd married Ruth, a girl he met when he was attending University in Columbia, Ohio. He lives in Davis, California, now.

Lynn married Dorothy Widen and both contributed a great deal in the music field in Westlock. Lynn passed away in 1979.

Doug married Thelma Hennessy and was a drug-gist in Edmonton until he retired.

Jean married Bill Dunnett. Jean still resides in Slocan, B.C.

Stuart married Margaret Turner and is with the D.O.T. in Toronto.

About 1929, my dad and Andy Erickson started trucking to Edmonton. They would take livestock in for farmers and haul out groceries, etc.

Then, in 1932, they sold their trucking business to the Crone Brothers and started two bus lines from Edmonton. In 1936 the dray business and house were sold to L. Loree and the Brown family moved to Edmonton.

My dad passed away in 1957 and Mother still lives in Edmonton at the Jubilee Lodge — she is 96 years old.

## **Edward E. (Christine) Buchanan and Family**

**written by Edward E. Buchanan**

My first introduction to Westlock was when I passed through in the early morning of the 2nd June, 1920, enroute to Manola.

Accompanied by a detective and a uniformed constable in a 1919 Model T Ford touring car, I left Edmonton at 5 A.M., drove over all dirt roads through St. Albert, Morinville, the main street of Westlock and crossed the railway tracks west of town, there found a large mud hole, so we left the

road and drove through a farmer's field until we were able to get back on the so called road west. At Rossington corner, we turned south two miles, then west again to the scene of a very brutal murder.

Some distance back in the bush, in a small depression, we found the bodies of a fifteen year old girl and her six year old brother covered over with branches and leaves along with a two inch, four feet long stick cut from a small birch tree near the home of the suspect. This was the murder weapon.



Mrs. Christine Buchanan supervising the children giving the Police dog a bath.

I have no wish to name names, which could only bring back unpleasant memories, other than to say that with the help of many district settlers a thorough search was made of the bush and muskeg in that area. This continued for twenty-four days until we were satisfied that the person we were looking for was dead by his own hand. This later proved to be correct when in a dry season the muskeg dried up and the skeleton, with the revolver, which we knew this person had with three bullets. One shell had been fired and a bullet hole in the skull clearly showed the manner of the suicide. Dr. Phillips, of Westlock, who had treated this person of a gun shot wound to his foot, was able to positively identify the remains.

I next passed through Westlock in August 1920, when a call was received from Old Barrhead. Someone was sleeping in their hay loft, stealing eggs from the chicken house and digging up their potatoes. They thought this might be the person we were looking for, for the murder at Manola, and they wanted an investigation. To keep watch overnight, the most convenient place was from the top of a huge manure pile against the barn, so the other officer and I obtained a horse blanket to lay on overnight. It was a dark night and about two A.M. heard slow steps coming from the bush south of the barn. We drew our revolvers and were waiting until the figure got closer.



We could dimly see the white face and outline of a dark body below. It stopped for a few seconds, then when it moved again it turned sideways and we saw the outline of the farmer's cow, which we were ready to call for surrender or perhaps shoot.

Next the large dog of the owner walked up to us, wagged his tail and jumped into the hay loft door and curled up in the hay for night. At daybreak we spotted a sow coming from the pigpen and helped herself to the potatoes in the garden and shortly after we observed chickens laying their eggs, peck at them breaking the shells and eating them all up. Reporting our findings to the owner we said case concluded and returned to Edmonton.



Magistrate Thomas W. Garde and Cpl. E. E. Buchanan.

Shortly after that I was stationed to St. Paul de Metis, now St. Paul, Alberta. In March 1922 I received word of a transfer to Grande Prairie Sub-Division headquarters. I was single at that time, so it did not take long, after my relief arrived, to pack my trunk. This time I passed through Westlock by train on March 22nd, 1921.

Many of the old timers will remember there was no dining car on the train and the first time I returned to Edmonton from Grande Prairie, found that the train stopped at Westlock for breakfast. The Chinese restaurant near the Depot had the bacon, eggs and

toast already on the table. Even if the train was late, it was still there (cold) and the price was still 50¢.

The Edmonton Dunvegan and British Columbia Railroad was nicknamed "'Extremely Dangerous and Badly Constructed.'" In the early years it was the only means of travel from the Peace River Country to Edmonton. Lack of ballast through muskeg country caused many problems.

In September 1934, having been at Wembley Detachment for over six years, I received word from Headquarters, Edmonton, that I was to take charge of the Westlock Detachment and to make the necessary arrangements for the move as soon as possible. By this time I was a married man with four children, two boys and two girls and a household of furniture. I had been engaged the year before I was transferred to Grand Prairie, so obtained leave of absence, returned to Edmonton and was married on the 19th August, 1922. Our furniture was crated and loaded in a box car. My wife and the youngest children left by passenger train for Edmonton to await the arrival of our furniture at Westlock.

It was near the end of October and I had to wait until late afternoon when the muddy roads froze so I could travel by car, accompanied by my eldest son Bill and my police dog, a German Shepherd named "Beau Geste". We crossed the Peace River at Dunvegan Ferry about eleven p.m., through slush ice. (The Ferry closed for the winter two days later). We travelled all night and when the frost came out of the ground, too muddy to travel, remained at Kinuso until late afternoon when the ground froze again. We continued all Saturday night, stopped for awhile Sunday, then continued on arriving at the Westlock Detachment late in the evening. I found my young assistant, George B. McClellan, awaiting my arrival. I unloaded my car and continued on to Edmonton, reporting to my Officer Commanding Monday morning. I returned to Westlock on Tuesday and with the arrival of our furniture, went back to Edmonton to bring my family to our new home. Little did we realize that Westlock would be our home for the next ten years.

During the time I was in charge at Westlock I had a total of twenty-eight Constables, some for nearly two years, a very few had a short stay. As I said my first assistant was George B. McClellan. He was at Westlock two years, then after service in Edmonton, was in charge at St. Paul. He was transferred to eastern Canada, was Commissioned and subsequently returned to Edmonton as Officer Commanding the Division. At this time I was Superintendent in charge of the Correctional Institutions in Alberta and we saw a great deal of each other. He retired as Commissioner of the R.C.M. Police, returned to

Edmonton where he was appointed Ombudsman for the Province of Alberta, the first of such appointments in Canada. We had kept in touch over the years with a close bond of friendship and with his passing in August last year, I felt the loss of a very dear friend and comrade.

As it may be of some interest to some of my old friends the following is the list of young Constables I had with me at Westlock, not in order of their arrival. J. J. Watkins, J. E. Stone, J. E. Fountain, E. J. Watts, R. J. Kidston, J. E. Archer, J. E. B. Hallett, L. G. Dagg, J. N. D. Thurston, R. R. Hulme, Neil McLeod, L. G. Dagg for the second time, just before he enlisted in the R.C.M. Police Provost Corps for overseas service, J. W. McGregor, M. R. Eaton, J. A. Rolfe, J. E. Sherwood, R. Thomas, A. H. Rosen-gren, G. N. Jones, R. Mulcaster, R. H. McKinney. L. V. Dempsey, G. R. Johnston, P. H. Hunt, W. G. Walters, R. M. Allan and E. V. Christianson. Some of these retired as Commissioned Officers, one as Regimental Sergeant Major in Ottawa, others as S/ Sergeants, Sub-division N.C.O.'s or Sergeants.

We made many friends in Westlock and District and although we have many happy memories of our stay in Westlock, we suffered the tragic loss of our eldest daughter, Rosemarie. She lapsed into a coma at four P.M. November 18, 1938 and despite the efforts of three doctors, passed away in the Immaculate Hospital at 8:45 P.M. the same evening. She was buried in the Dunganon Cemetery, so part of us will always be there.

As a Law Enforcement Officer, it was a pleasure to have such a Magistrate as Thomas W. Garde. He was Secretary Treasurer of the Municipal District of Pibroch and with his police and military background fulfilled his duties as a Magistrate with distinction. His secretary was one Lizzie Gamble, who also acted as Court Reporter on important trials and I used to feel sorry and embarrassed for the lovely young lady having to listen and record some of the language that came from some of the witnesses. I do recall at one time her face lowered her reporter's book but the pink crawled up to her neck to her ears. (Sorry Lizzie).

Magistrate Garde was a compassionate man and when he retired he was followed by Magistrate C. M. McKeen, another learned gentleman and human-itarian.

I was delighted when I arrived at Westlock to find that an old friend, Harry B. Fraser, Barrister & Solic-itor, was established there. I had first met Mr. Fraser when he was in practice at Smoky Lake in 1920. My brother, who was also in the police force, opened the Smoky Lake Detachment in 1919 and shortly after met his future wife, Barbara Cromarty, the daughter of Magnus Cromarty, who retired as the Factor at the

Hudson Bay Post at Victoria and was then farming at Pakan. My brother Bill and Barbara were married at Pakan on the 15th March, 1921. Harry Fraser was best man at the wedding and I was present representing the family. I took charge of the Smoky Lake Detach-ment while my brother and his wife were on their honeymoon for about a month. I was stationed at St. Paul de Metis after this and was in Smoky Lake quite frequently on other police matters, so I had come to know Harry Fraser as a conscientious, honest and exceedingly fair in his dealing with any of his clients and the minimum fee he charged for his services I knew he would never be a rich man.



Dancing the Minuet in Westlock.

At Westlock, Harry Fraser owned a Model A Ford, which I knew he did not care to drive and when he would advise me that he was defending a client who was summoned to appear before Magistrate Garde and Barrhead or Fort Assiniboine etc., I would offer him a ride. To this he would remark "It looks terrible when the magistrate arrives in a car driven by the Police Officer and the Defence Counsel sitting in the back seat". I told him if he did not like to be seen with us, I would drop him off a mile or so out of town and he could walk in carrying his brief case or per- haps he could thumb a ride the rest of the way.



I recall one case in particular where he rode with us to Barrhead, was in court from ten a.m. to three-thirty p.m., with time out for lunch, defending his client and even paid for his lunch. I overheard his client asking him how much he owed him for all his services and Mr. Fraser asked him "How much do you have?" His client pulled out five one dollar bills and said "That's all I have." Mr. Fraser said, "Give me three dollars and we'll call it square."

One of the most tragic cases I had to deal with during my time at Westlock, was when I received a phone call from R.C.M.P. Headquarters in Edmonton, late Sunday evening the 15th November, 1936, that a message had been received over the railway telegraph from Chisholm that there had been some killings at Tieland, a railway siding south of Chisholm. As there was no road into this area, I was authorized to engage the section foreman at Pibroch to convey us to Tieland. Accompanied by Dr. L. A. Kickham, Constables Fountain and Kidston, we drove along the railway track to Pibroch as the roads were impassable with snow. From Pibroch the section foreman conveyed us by speeder. It was near midnight when I requested the foreman that he stop the speeder one mile out of Tieland, so that we could approach the siding on foot. In accord with railway regulations, we had a coal oil lamp hanging from the metal bar and it was at this time that I saw the sign "Tieland one mile". I told the foreman to shut off the motor and stop the speeder. As he did so, a shot was heard and a bullet ricocheted on the steel bar, above the coal oil lamp. I grabbed the lamp and threw it into a snow bank. As the speeder came to a stop, another shot was heard from the north of us and needless to say by this time we were all out of the speeder. We removed the speeder from the track and requesting Dr. Kickham and the foreman to remain there, accompanied by Constables Fountain and Kidston, continued north on foot along the track.

At the siding I found the building that held the speeder and tools padlocked. I instructed the two constables to remain there until I approached the home a short distance in the bush. Feeling around in the dark I also found it was padlocked on the outside. There was glass panel on the door, so risking a light, shone my flashlight in the window and saw it was the kitchen. Near the door, on the floor, I saw the body of a young woman and a small child by her side and blood all over the floor. I found a small iron bar near the door, pried off the padlock, entered and searched the house. The young woman had been shot in the face, then beaten over the head and the young child beaten to death by head blows. From there I went to a bunk house a short distance south, found it padlocked on the outside, pried the lock off and

found the body of a man sitting in a chair, left arm and head resting on the table. He had been shot in the back of the head.

The thought entered my mind with the husband missing, we should look for him. Returning to Constables Fountain and Kidston, we headed back to where we had left Dr. Kickham and the foreman. There we found back in the bush two other log shacks. The first was also padlocked on the outside and forcing this lock, found the body of a man face down. He had been shot in the back, but on turning him over, found he had first been shot in the face. At the shack nearby, we found the door unlocked but no one there. We headed back to the siding and forcing the lock on the tool shed, found the body of the young section-foreman, husband of the dead woman and father of the little child. He had been shot in the eye, then the speeder shoved into the building as one wheel was over his hair, then the door padlocked. With this, we realized we were looking for the missing person from the padlocked shack.

With the coming of morning, we were able to follow tracks in the snow and eventually found the body of a man who had committed suicide by shooting himself in the head. Two rifles were lying alongside of him and several empty shells on the ground. It appeared that he had been lying in the slope of the railway grade shooting. This we later found to be correct, as the couple and a young girl, who had approached the house that afternoon, had been shot at and they ran to Chisholm to report the matter.

As Coroner, Dr. Kickham authorized the removal of all the bodies on a small flat car, attached to the speeder, be taken to Flatbush, where a Coroner's Jury was empanelled and an inquest held. By telephone, from Flatbush, I reported to my Edmonton Sub-Division headquarters. Case concluded.

The killer had been section-foreman at Teiland, was dismissed for health reasons, which affected his mind. He built the shack next to an old trapper and it appeared he was very jealous of his replacement, which eventually was the cause of him committing this terrible crime.

Needless to say, not wishing to alarm my wife and family, I did not tell them everything about what I was going to when I left home Sunday evening, but when I returned home my wife told me she was surprised on the Monday morning when three car loads of policemen, fully armed, arrived from Edmonton and wanted to know where I was. This was when she heard about the mass murders.

Few people realize the part the wife of a policeman on Detachment at that time plays in carrying out his duties. Not only does she have to look after the

home, answer the telephone, taking down complaints and to give advice to people wishing immediate help. Sometimes to pacify a mental case who comes to the office, as in one particular case, she was able to get my eldest son to run down for Dr. Kickham and between the doctor and herself, tried to get this man into the cell, but when he saw it he burst out the office door and hopped on his saddle horse and took off. When I returned home later that evening, I tracked him for about 45 miles. The history of his case showed he was dangerous and after medical examination, he was committed to a mental hospital. We use to refer to our wives as the unpaid Special Constables.

The outbreak of War in 1939 caused a lot of extra duties and all leaves of absence were cancelled. Our eldest son, William (Bill) entered the C.O.T.C. in the University of Alberta, but a few months later he transferred to the Air Force and was sent to Vulcan, Alberta, for his first part of training and then to Aylmer, Ontario. Later our second son, enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy and transferred to St. John's, Newfoundland.

Another young son was born to us on the 8th September, 1941 in the Westlock Hospital, Robert Andrew, named after the two grandfathers.

I was instructed to report to Regina, Saskatchewan in February, 1944 from there was transferred to Lethbridge Sub-Division Headquarters. With the scarcity of accommodation in Lethbridge, it was impossible to obtain a home until September, 1944 for my family from Westlock, so after seven months we were back together.

As a section N.C.O. I had to inspect the Detachments once a month and assist in clearing up any unsolved crimes.

Assistant Commissioner W. F. W. Hancock informed me just before my transfer to Lethbridge, that I would be attached to the Department of Security Control and that I would have to make an inspection of the Prisoner of War Internment Camp which held some 17,000 Prisoners of War. Also that I would inspect all Air Force training posts in southern Alberta. Also the Broder Cannery and the Ellison Flour Mills, which had been taken over under the War Measures Act.

I was also appointed Inspector under the Foreign Exchange Control Act, responsible for the granting or refusal of any export of foreign monies. I was empowered to summons and hold hearings under the Act or prosecute any violations.

A short time later I was appointed second in command of the Lethbridge Sub-Division, during which time I served under four different officers and

when they were transferred I would be alone for several weeks before a new officer would arrive.

I retired from the R.C.M.P. in November 1950, returned to Edmonton, where later I was appointed Inspector of Jails for the Province of Alberta and subsequently named Superintendent of Correctional Institutions for the Province. There were only Lethbridge and Fort Saskatchewan Jails at that time. The Province had purchased some land with an Air Force hangar between Innisfail and Bowden and a few young first offenders and a few juveniles were housed in temporary dormitories.

Over the next few years, with the approval of the Premier and Provincial Cabinet, I worked with the Department of Public Works, planning suitable buildings at Bowden, the Belmont Rehabilitation Centre for the treatment of alcoholics, the Alberta Institution for Girls, establishing forestry camps from Whitecourt to the Crows Nest Pass, remodeling the old mining Town of Nordegg as the center and building the Calgary Correction Institution. Then I toured the Peace River district to locate a suitable place for one in the north and the Cabinet approved the site of the old St. Augustine Mission near Peace River. During this time I had also set up and directed the Training of the Municipal Police in Alberta and when I retired in November 1965; (or tried to retire) I was called back several times to direct this training school.

I joined the Society for the Retired or Semi-Retired and as a member of the group for the past seven years, have been lecturing at many schools on history. The City of Edmonton recognized my services to the schools by a banquet at Old Fort Edmonton on the 10th of September 1981, where I was presented with a Scroll by the Chairman, Edmonton Historical Advisory Board, for my efforts in preserving our Heritage.

Our stay in Westlock brought us many wonderful friends and memories and contact with many has continued over the years. My wife and I attended Mr. and Mrs. Art Bentley's 60th wedding anniversary at the United Church in Westlock, the opening of Lindahl's new store and many other friendly visits.

In August 1982, my wife and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary. Our family had arranged an open house reception at the Strathearn United Church in Edmonton on August 21, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. We were indeed pleased and surprised so many of our friends from Westlock, Barrhead and many who now reside in Edmonton, attended. We are blessed with four grandsons, four granddaughters and five great grandchildren, many of whom were present at our anniversary.

Shortly after the war was over, our two sons



returned home to us in Lethbridge. Bill on leave pending discharge and Ted on a thirty day furlough, as he had signed up for Pacific Service in the Navy and at the end of his leave had to report to Esquimalt, B.C.

On the 4th September 1946, Bill was married to a lovely Lethbridge born young lady, Alyce Lillian Pitt. Bill had one year University before enlisting and had applied for re-entry, but as there was a long waiting list, had to wait. It was not long before he received word from the University of Alberta, so he and his wife moved to Edmonton. On leaving the University of Alberta, he travelled for Marshall Wells Hardware. On the 9th September 1951, our first granddaughter arrived, then our first grandson, William, on the 2nd January, 1957. Many of Bill's friends will remember he was an accomplished pianist and played in the orchestra at Westlock, while attending high school and in Edmonton played over the radio with the Rocky Mountain Rangers.

The evening of Saturday the 23rd of January, 1960, my wife and I were at Bill's home with some of the members of the orchestra, when Bill took a chill. We got him to bed with a hot drink and in about an hour the chill seemed to pass. He remained in bed on Sunday having apparently recovered, however, he died suddenly at 9 a.m. on Monday the 25th, from what was diagnosed as a virus congested pneumonia. Alyce, our daughter-in-law, a wonderful girl, devoted herself to bringing up her two young children and now owns her own General Store at Ashmont, near where her daughter lives, who is married to a Building Contractor and they had three of the most beautiful children, our first great grandchildren, one boy and two darling girls.

Our grandson, Bill, is doing very well with the Canadian Liquid Air, having been with them since he graduated from high school, a big handsome lad, not in any hurry to get married.

Our son Ted, married a Lethbridge girl. They have three daughters, all living on Vancouver Island. The eldest an Alderman and member of the School Board at Port Alberni. The other two attending the University of British Columbia in Victoria.

Our daughter, Jean, married a wonderful man, Elmer B. Culler, grain farmer at Bow Island, east of Lethbridge. They were in the habit of spending four to six weeks each January and February in Arizona. The first Friday in February, 1977, they arrived at our home in Edmonton, after a trip through south east U.S.A. and a month in Phoenix. Something awoke me about 4 a.m. on Monday the 3rd of February, 1977, and going in to our living room, found my son-in-law face down on the living room rug, having suffered a massive stroke. We had him in the Univer-

sity Hospital in a very short time, but he passed away on the 3rd of May, 1977 and was buried in the Bow Island Cemetery.

Jean was very active in church work at Bow Island, in the choir and organist. She handled the Cub Pack for fourteen years, District Commissioner for the Scout, 4H work and other interests. After her husband passed away, she felt the need of a change, so she sold the farm and purchased land north of Valleyview. She is building a new home and farms the land by herself. She spends Christmas with us each year, then takes off before the New Year for Costa Rica, on church mission work. She returns at the end of April to farm for the summer. She is fluent in Spanish and her heart is in administering and spreading the word of God among these needy people. My wife and I spent two weeks with her in Costa Rica in February, 1982 and witnessed some of the good she is doing.

As I previously mentioned, our youngest son was born in the Westlock Hospital and took his schooling in Lethbridge, then high school in Edmonton, first at Ross Sheppard, then when we moved to our present address, completed his grade twelve in Bonnie Doon High. He spent one year at the University of Alberta, then enrolled at N.A.I.T. whilst employed with the Provincial Government, with the Energy and Natural Resources. He married Joyce Blanch Rehaume on the 2nd August, 1968, a graduate nurse from the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. Joyce was born in Grande Prairie, the eldest daughter of Henry and Blanch Rehaume, now retired and living north of Grande Prairie. Bob and his wife have three sons, all born in December, the youngest just starting school this year.

With over thirty years of police service in the Province and nearly one-third of it spent at Westlock, it stands to reason that our thoughts go back to the many friends we had there. We still watch, with interest, the development from the small place I first saw in June 1920. I am looking forward to the publishing of this book, the reading of which, should revive many happy memories.

## **Bunker — Phyllis and Family**

I moved to the town of Westlock from a farm, south and east of Tawatinaw, that had been my home since my marriage to Floyd Bunker in 1930. Both Floyd and I had come to the Tawatinaw district as children with our families. Together we raised a family of five, Arlene, Shirley, Garth, Keith and Beverly. Like most families of that era, money and material possessions were not ready commodities but the love and enthusiasm of a growing family was in abundance. With my twenty nine dollar sewing ma-

chine and hand-me-downs from friends, I was able to keep the children well dressed and warm. The big annual garden and spud patch kept the tummies full and Floyd's versatility of talents kept things in good repair and running order around the farm.



The Canada Bunkers. Front row: Shirley (Balaschak), Mother, Arlene (Lamble), Beverley (Dutka), Back row: Garth and Keith.

After Floyd's sudden death in February, 1955 the decision as to whether to remain on the farm or not had to be made. With the help of Garth and Arlene's husband, Albert, we did manage two more crops, but after the 1956 crop was off, the move began. Bev, the youngest of the children, was then in Grade twelve in Westlock High School and was boarding at the home of Mrs. Amy Glen. In December I rented a small basement suite from my uncle, Walter Burchett, and Bev and I became Westlockians. My father, William Burchett and my sister, Norah Larsen and her family lived nearby. Life in town and in our tiny apartment was indeed different and required many adjustments. Worst of all was trying to entertain the friends who came to visit. One could say we had some very "close" relationships in the confines of that tiny apartment.

Over the years, all of my children except Keith have made their homes in Westlock, even if it was only for a short time.

Garth, who was still single at the time of the move, came to Westlock for that first winter. He drove fuel truck for Kipp's Service Station. He hauled into bush camps in the Wabasca and Chisholm areas. The following spring he moved to Edmonton and went to work for Edmonton Transit Mix, a company that has changed names many times over the years and is presently part of Genstar Corporation.

Garth married Audrey Stephenson, also of the Tawatinaw area and together they have raised four children — Lynn, Kelly, Sandy and Lyle. Garth is still with Genstar.

Arlene married Albert Lamble of the Thorhild area in 1950 and they farmed near us in the early years of their marriage. After they sold their farm, they moved into the hamlet of Tawatinaw and Albert operated the municipal road maintainer. Later he went into partnership with Ray Clapperton and operated the garage in Tawatinaw. In 1966, the garage closed and Albert commuted to Westlock where he had joined his brother, Gordon, in the Westlock Feed Mill. The family, which by then consisted of Randy, Dianne, Lorna, Roger and Linda (Darcy was added later) soon moved to a rented farm home one mile west of Westlock and they too became official Westlockians. Albert passed away suddenly in April 1972 and since then Arlene has purchased a home in town. Her four oldest children are married and she has seven grandchildren.

Shirley married Bill Balascak in 1953 and they too, started out farming west of Tawatinaw. At the same time that I left the farm, Shirley, Bill and their son, Bruce, moved to Edmonton where Bill found employment also with Edmonton Transit Mix. Sometime later, Bill left the concrete business and went into hotel work, starting out at the Highway Motor Inn. Their marriage was blessed with another child, Melanie and they bought a lovely home in the Ottwell district.



The M. P. Bunker family.

After the Highway Motor Inn was sold, Bill moved with the previous owners, to the Kingsway Motor Hotel and has been instrumental in helping the company set up hotels in such places as Penticton, Pheonix, Lac la Biche, Ft. McMurray and in 1980



one of the hotels purchased was the West 18 Inn here in Westlock. Shirley and Melanie managed the West 18 during its first years of business, thus making yet another of my children residents of this community. They have since hired another manager but I surely did enjoy having all three of my daughters here at the same time.

My other son, Keith was working in Edmonton (for Scott National Fruit Co.) when I moved here. He was single at the time and did enjoy coming to visit out here on his weekends off. Although he never did, in fact, live here, he got to know many of Bev's and my friends. He later moved to Calgary where he married Eileen Sanders and they have two children, Kiley and Tanya.

Bev, as I said earlier came here to finish her high school education since Grade twelve was not available at Tawatinaw. After Graduation, she worked for two years in the payroll and switchboard office of Immaculata Hospital with Sister John Marie followed by two years as an operator for Alberta Government Telephones. In 1960 she married Ray Dutka, who with his brothers owned and operated a plumbing business (see Dutka Plumbing Story elsewhere). They have two children, Lorina and Murray. Bev has been very active in community projects here in Westlock. She served seven years with the Brownies and Girl Guides as both a leader and district commissioner. She has been active in the Catholic Women's League and in the Westlock Drama Society. She has also served as a trustee on the Westlock Roman Catholic Separate School District from April 1975 to Oct. 1983.

When I arrived in Westlock in 1956, my first task was to find employment, and that I did — in the third floor diet kitchen of Immaculata Hospital, a position that I held for nearly eighteen years. I retired in September 1974. The work there was heavy, with long hours on your feet and split shifts, but it had its rewards too. I made many close and lasting friendships through my work, not only with the patients but with the Sisters and the other staff members. It was indeed a privilege to work beside a wonderful lady like Sister Mary Electa, who has remained a friend for these past twenty seven years. Although she worked extremely hard, her beautiful faith and her quick sense of humour brightened the lives of her patients and her co-workers.

Since my retirement, I am kept busy with a home and yard to tend, in addition to all my hobbies. I still enjoy quilting, fancy work, reading and gardening. I am active with the Westlock United Church Women and have been President of the Senior Citizens Golden Age Club for three years.

Life in Westlock has been good to me and my family and we are happy to call it home.

## Walter Burchett

Walter Burchett was born and raised on the south coast of England in the county of Sussex where the waters of the Gulf Stream make that part of the country worthy of the name of the Garden of England.

At the time of his election to the board of directors of the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool in 1941, he wrote the following biographical article which was published in "The Cowbell" in August 1941: "I hastily acquired what education my teachers deemed would be sufficient to relieve them of my continued presence, and a resultant tranquility in the conduct of the whole classroom, and departed to take up the profession (as it was there) of horticulture, chiefly under glass, and specializing in out of season fruits and the culture of exotic plants and flowers, including orchids.



Walter Burchett on the steps of the Pembina School Division Bldg. on 106th Street, Westlock, in the 1940's.

However, it was early evident that broader horizons were beckoning, and at the age of 22 I bade farewell to the grafting wax, watering can and insect sprays, and turned westward with itching feet. On the "S.S. Tunisian" I was intrigued by the charms of old Ontario as related by a well informed agent of the Ontario Government, and as a result thereof, I found myself established on an Ontario farm in the cheese factory district west of Ottawa. Four months of this was sufficient to convince me that the twenty-six cows on the farm were being milked far too early in the morning, and rather than continue to be a party to such a crime as calling them from the pasture at 4 a.m. in order to have milk at the factory by six

o'clock, it was with tears in my eyes that early one morning I bade the cows and the other hired man a fond farewell and departed for pastures new. I had decided by this time that it was written in the stars that henceforth my domicile would be on the broad plains south of Regina, but a few years on a dust diet proved it to be a false prophecy. As vivid and wonderful stories were at this time drifting in from the Province of Alberta and the Peace River in particular, I was convinced that here indeed would be found Utopia.

Hastily packing my 26 years' collections into an overnight case, and with my total wealth of \$6.00 sewn securely inside my undershirt, I again answered the call of distant places. Eventually I made a forced landing about sixty miles north of Edmonton with a receipt for \$10.00 which the Dominion Government dared me to keep in my possession for three years without starving to death. However, rabbits being particularly plentiful in those bountiful years, and the fact that the neighbours demonstrated the value of co-operation in the experiment by seeing to it that my stomach received at least one square meal a week, I had sufficient strength left at the end of three years to call the bet, and the Government, realizing the jig was up, called for a truce and issued a certificate of title for 160 acres in my name.

The three years of semi-starvation had evidently steeled my soul, and being in the mood for further punishment, I witlessly accepted a position as Trustee on the Local School Board. This innocent past-time actually developed into a 'Frankenstein' and has apparently developed into a life sentence. Having heard that married men live longer than single ones, I decided in 1919 to try the experiment, but have since proven the fallacy of such a claim. It merely seems longer.

However, now having someone to share my burdens, I took up additional ones by serving a seven year sentence on Municipal Council work. After narrowly escaping assault and battery by irate ratepayers on various occasions, I decided it was only given to the few, the ability and courage to carry forward work of such a hazardous nature. Fortunately by this time, the wife and family had pretty well mastered the technique of doing the chores to everyone's satisfaction but their own, and I, deeming my presence was no longer necessary at chore time, I developed the pernicious habit of attending meetings.

Any meeting, U.F.A., Dairy Pool, political (any variety) and social was really an event, and there was the danger that the world would collapse if it were not attended. Co-operation was the gospel that was being preached, and everyone kidded themselves that a



The Walter Burchett family Back row, Harry. Front row: Mavis, Inga, Walter, Norman, Dorothy and Joyce.

large number of contract signers was all that was required to save western agriculture from going to the Bow-wows. It may have saved agriculture, but it put many of us in the dog house doing it.

Upon the formation of the Pembina School Division, a sufficient number of ratepayers were persuaded, coaxed, or just plain bamboozled into thinking that I, having been proven useless at anything else, would at least make a useful target at which to shoot their school troubles. This they have done in the form of a barrage for the past three years, and providing they do not demand a recall they will continue to suffer my inactivity for the ensuing two years, when they will have an opportunity to demand justice by means of the ballot. At the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool annual meeting in March last, the delegates of District Two apparently formed the opinion that anyone with such a vacant look should make a good director, and without further ado, they elected me to the Board for two years, and further added a rider, which was an expression of sympathy to the management for their action".

In 1942, Walter assumed the office of Secretary-Treasurer of the Pembina School Division which had been formed by order of the Department of Education in 1938.

In January, 1943, the board members of the Pembina School Division were, Trustees: L. J. Landvatter, R. D. Jorgenson, Arthur Stanley, W. Sutherland and C. K. Mast. L. J. Landvatter was Chairman of the Board and C. K. Mast was Vice-Chairman. As mentioned, Walter Burchett was Secretary-Treasurer and L. W. Kunelius was Inspector of Schools.

In January, 1948, the large area of Pembina School Division was partitioned and the Westlock School Division came into being. Walter Burchett became and remained for eleven years, Secretary-



Treasurer of the Westlock School Division with a total of seventeen years of service to education in the Westlock area.

At the time of his retirement from this position in 1959, he received the following letter of tribute from Leo Kunelius, now of Calgary:

"My very best wishes go to you on the occasion of your retirement as secretary of the Westlock School Division. How I wish I could be among your good friends and old co-workers who are now gathered to pay tribute to a faithful public servant, a true friend and a real fellow! Only the long distance and the pre-Christmas pressure keeps me away. But I am thinking of you, Walter.

We had many experiences together, particularly in the early years which added spice and adventure to our work. You will recall, among many others, the following:

1. — huddling around the camp heater in 40 below weather at Chornohora and at Cavell while reading annual reports,

2. — slushing through forty miles of mud from an emergency meeting at Flatbush and stopping off at "Lucky" Landvatter's for a midnight lunch,

3. — being literally picked up out of a snowbank by local petitioners while on the way from an organization meeting at Cumly Park,

4. — expounding at the first centralization meeting in the Division — that memorable gathering crowded into the old Hillman school,

5. — then such memorable sights as the following: (a) the Brookland school van — a Hanson creation, (b) the Dapp van — an Abe Nelson creation from an army ambulance, (c) the \$900 LCF 38's that sprang up throughout the area as the first step in improved school facilities for a pioneer area.

Well, they are all but a memory now, but throughout, we were breaking new ground and the breaking has brought forth good crops. I am proud and glad to have been associated with you in those great old days. I wish you the very best in the days to come."

An impromptu gathering was held in the School Division office when R. C. Ponting introduced Hon. R. D. Jorgenson, Minister of Welfare, who spoke of his years of association with Walter and offered best wishes. Dobson Lea, member of the board, presented Mr. Burchett with an easy chair on behalf of the Division. Mrs. Ken Round presented flowers to Mrs. Burchett.

To the gathering of former trustees and superintendents, Walter replied feelingly that he had worked with over thirty trustees in those years and heard a steady procession of presentations — all of which had contributed to progress in education. He said,

"We are going on to a new vision of education" and he had many happy recollections of those with whom he had been associated.

After his first return to his homeland in 1954, Walter owned and operated an insurance business which he had purchased from Fred Griswold. This business was operated from an office within the Westlock School Division office on 106 Street, until he sold to Western Real Estate and Insurance operated by Ross McFarlane and George Bruder who relocated in an office on Main Street where they are still located.

Walter retired from the insurance business in 1963 and spent the summer, with his wife Inga, on a holiday in England and Norway.

In 1965, he and Inga retired to Kelowna in search of a milder climate and a "four year holiday" as he often described it. They returned to Westlock in August, 1969, where they lived until Walter passed away suddenly in October of that year. He was buried in Hazel Bluff cemetery.

Walter was always interested in community affairs and helped in the promotion of many worthwhile projects. He was Secretary-Treasurer of Westlock Masonic Lodge for a number of years, and held the same position for the Westlock and District Agricultural Society when it was known as the "Fair Board." During that time, the fair was changed from a "one day" to a "two day" fair and the practice of presenting senior citizenship scrolls to old-timers of the Westlock district was initiated. Over sixty old-timers received their scrolls at one of the fairs.

Walter was a member of the Westlock United Church and sang in the choir with George Currey, Richard Ponting, Wm J. McCullough, Sr, and others, for a number of years.

He was also secretary of the Pembina Livestock Co-operative Shipping Association, always maintaining a close interest in Western agriculture, which began in his earlier years as a farmer at Tawatinaw and Jarvie.

Two sons and three daughters still live in the general area. Norman, now of Jarvie; Harry, who operates Turbo Gas Service Station in Westlock; Dorothy (Mrs. Don) Baker of Hazel Bluff; Joyce (Mrs. Rob) Garth of Westlock and Mavis (Mrs. John) Gamble of McLennan.

His widow, Inga, enjoys her retirement years in Westlock.

### **W. J. Burns Family**

The N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 17-58-26-W4 known as Annsboro Farm was purchased by W. J. Burns and his wife Hettie around the year 1922. The farm got its name from a road over in Lurgan, Northern Ireland where W. J. or

Bill (as known to all) and his wife Hettie came from. The Burns' had four children; Eileen, Robert, John, and Lois. Eileen, the eldest, who was Mrs. Al Quigley lived in Edmonton and passed away in August 1976. She had one son William. Robert married Mary Jackson and resides on the farm. They have two daughters, Anna and Lois. John who lives in Edmonton married Norah Coupeland and have two sons, Bryan and Darrell. Lois, who is Mrs. Doug Bowman resides in the Namao District. They have one son, Tom and daughter Wendy.



The Burns family. Back: Bill and Hettie (Parents). Bob, Eileen, Jack, Lois, ?.

Although Bill, Hettie and family did not live on the farm this is where they kept their show horses. They spent a lot of their time at Annsboro during the summer months.

After Robert (Bob) graduated from Olds College in 1935 he took over the running of the farm. His father who started showing horses in 1916 kept a string of Clydesdales, Hackney and saddle horses. The Clydes were shown at the Toronto Royal, Brandon, Saskatoon, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton. The

light horses were shown at Saskatoon, Edmonton and were first shown at the Westlock Fair in 1928. Bob was known for the driving of his six horse hitch of Clydesdales and later for his work as a 4-H Leader. All the Burns family took part in the horse shows, either driving or riding. Hettie made all the flowers and tail ribbons for the Clydes, Bill kept the show harness shining and Bob's uncle Jack Cummings was always there to help braid and harness the horses.

Bill passed away in August of 1956 and Hettie in November of 1968.



Bob Burns and his six horse hitch of Clydesdales.

Bob and Mary's two daughters Anna, Mrs. Syd Meakin of Alcomdale and Lois, Mrs. Blaine Schmidt of Pickardville still keep on the family tradition of raising and showing horses.

### Bill Bush

Bill Bush homesteaded the NE¼-3-27-61-W4. He was a bachelor who liked to visit many of the neighbours; a real friendly fellow. One lady remembers he used to tell stories about tornados and hurricanes which happened in the United States, and she said as a little girl it used to scare her. Often she would put her hands over her ears so that she couldn't hear.

In about 1919 he sold his homestead to Mr. Whyatt, who lived there about ten years. The place was then sold to Mr. Shields, who also stayed there for about ten years. He had a son and a daughter, Grendvill and Hilda. Hilda is now Mrs. Ed Coles. They sold the farm to Mr. Van Nieuvanhuysse, who still owns it.

### A. H. Bushaw

Alger H. Bushaw was born on May 3rd, 1908. He married Geneva H. Poirty, who was born April 20, 1926, and they had a family of seven children.

On May 14, 1944 their first daughter was born and was named Katherine. She became the wife of Ray Beaubien and is now living on a farm close to



Wetaskiwin, with four children: Louise, Wayne, Brian and Craig.

Mary, the second daughter, was born July 30, 1945. She married Mike Baron and they had three children: Shelley, James and Cindy. She was later divorced and remarried to William A. Brett. Four more children were born from this union: William Jr., Carrie, Michael and Michelle. They are now living in Clyde.

A third daughter Gwendoline, came into the world on July 10, 1949. She married Andy Marko and is living in Clyde with two sons, Gerald and Terry.

James, the first son, was born March 20, 1951 and he is married to Norma Edeburn. They are living at Sylvan Lake, Alberta and have two sons: Trevor and Jason.

Next came Susan, who was born April 5, 1957, and is married to Lawrence Ulrich. They have two sons: Wesley and Sandy and at present reside in Westlock.

Dale, who is living in Creston, B.C., was born on April 2, 1960, and is married to Christine (nee Hall).

Sarah, born June 20, 1961 was married to David Leggett and had a family of three; Tamara, Travis and Amanda. Sarah was later divorced and is living at Creston, B.C.

Alger passed away June 15, 1977. Geneva, remarried to Artley Brett, is now living in Creston, B.C.

## The Byvank Family

Barend (Barney) Byvank came with his wife Daatje, and son William, from Holland in the spring of 1908. They arrived in Edmonton on May 25 and went to Immigration Hall, which was crowded with people looking for work or homesteads.

Barney got a job in the brick yards, firing the kilns. There was a great demand for bricks as Edmonton was growing quickly. The fire in the kiln was kept going day and night, and correct temperature in the kiln was very important.

Several Dutch families became acquainted, and when the odd-numbered quarter sections were opened for settlement in 1908, the men headed north from Edmonton with a Dutch guide, to find land.

The men stayed with Brocks until they found the land they wanted, the NW¼ 21-59-1-W5. In 1909, James MacGregor Sr. brought them to the homestead where they lived in a tent while they built a shack. In the winters, the men went to Edmonton to work.

Three daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Byvank in Canada. Margaret, who was later married to Fred Madson of the Shoal Creek district, now lives in Westlock; Alida married Art Stanton and had two

children, Ernest of Shoal Creek and Judy, (Mrs. Hans Larson) of Hazel Bluff. Freda, the third daughter, died in infancy.

Bill Byvank married Eva Stanton in 1936. They made their home in the Eastburg district, where their three sons also live. Kenneth, the oldest son, married Jeanne Kaylite of Edmonton and they have one son, David.

Mervin married Marlane Nickerson of Dapp. They have two sons, Terrance and Dean, and live on the NE¼ 30-59-1-W5.

The youngest son, Raymond, married Ruth Dunham of Lindberg, Alberta. They live on the original Byvank homestead, the NW¼ 21-59-1-W5.

Bill, Eva and family have been active workers in the Eastburg community for many years. Eva is a member of the Westlock Art Club, as is her daughter-in-law, Marlane. Bill and Eva often spend the cold months of the year in sunny Arizona.

## The David Calderwood Family

by Mrs. Nelson Letts

My father came to Canada from Ireland in the spring of 1907, and my oldest brother, Jim, came with him. Father had been in our home town of Ballymina and the travel agent there sold him a couple of tickets before he left town, so he and Jim came to Canada in May. Of course, Mother never knew that he was going to leave so soon. It was quite a surprise for her and it meant she would have to take on the responsibilities of the family. There were six of us in the family. Elizabeth was the oldest, Jim was next, then Alex, who was 14, Margaret 12, Annie 9½ and myself, 8.



Nancy and David Calderwood inspecting their new churn.

The reason Father came to Canada was that he couldn't see much prospects for a family the size of his on a farm in Ireland. The rest of us came west in September of the same year. We younger ones enjoyed the trip on the boat immensely but the others all got sea-sick. All in all, it wasn't too bad a journey.

Lizzie and Margaret stayed in Edmonton the first winter. Lizzie worked for a lady in the city whose husband had a farm at Fort Saskatchewan, and Margaret went to school. The rest of us stayed on the homestead. I think the men had to stay on the homesteads six months of each year for three years and break fifteen acres a year, so that they could get their title to the land.

Father's original destination was Edmonton, but then he heard of the good opportunities in the Edison district so he came north, and he and Jim took up a quarter each. Alex homesteaded another quarter when he became old enough to homestead. They rented land at Clyde for a two year period and then moved onto the homesteads in 1911. Before that, they had rented a farm at Fort Saskatchewan for a while so that they could raise a garden and some grain until there was sufficient land cleared and broken on the homesteads to be able to live there.

In 1916 my brothers started farming on the prairie where they enjoyed the larger farming operations. Both have passed on but they were quite successful in their farming endeavors, and some of their families still farm there.

Father and Jim hauled ties for the Grand Trunk Railway as far away as Entwistle, and also dug sewers and did some cement work in Edmonton in those early years, where the Immigration Hall used to be. It was quite a long way to drive with horses, into Edmonton. Near the homestead there were lots of mudholes and stumps to dodge as best they could. There were no schools at that time, so we younger ones just got an education bit by bit.

We went to Notre Dame school, near Fort Saskatchewan, and later to Violet Hill school which was built just two miles south of Clyde, on what is now Highway Two. When we moved permanently onto the homestead, we went to Poplar Knoll school, either walking, riding or driving with whatever means was available. There were no comfortable yellow school busses in those days!

Our neighbours consisted of the Sheppy brothers to the east of us and later the Aaron Roddick family moved in on the west. Mr. and Mrs. Roddick were both school teachers, and Aaron had taught high school in Edmonton before coming to the homestead. He took pity on us "poor kids" and taught us for at least one winter.

There was no post office until the Nettletons



Nelson Letts hauling lumber to Clyde and Legal from Shoal Creek, 1921.

moved onto a homestead nearby. Before that we got our mail at Edison, three miles west of where Westlock now is. We saw where Westlock started.

The pioneers had to work hard to make their living at the start, and there was not much variety to our menu; mostly dried apples, prunes and beans became our staple diet, along with wild meat.

My husband, Nelson Letts, and I moved to his uncle's farm to the west of us, near the Pembina River and we still live here. It was much closer for the children to go to school.

We have a family of three boys and one girl. When Jim finished high school he decided to be a doctor, then went on to be a Psychiatrist, a profession he still practices in Calgary. Dorothy went through to be a school teacher, and later decided to be a farmer's wife. Alex and Park took up agriculture and later Alex decided to be a teacher. He taught at Horse Hills school and at Namao, and is now Assistant Superintendent with the Sturgeon School Division. When Park finished his agricultural studies, he decided to be a farmer and specializes in raising cattle.

Now semi-retired, we still enjoy the farm life and the quiet of the countryside. I guess "a strong back and a weak mind" kept us on the farm! We now have the comforts of city life, for which we are thankful. We appreciate the peaceful land in which we live and have many good friends and neighbours, and a bright hope for the future. I might mention that all the original family have passed on now, so times have changed, but we still enjoyed those early years as we seemed to have more time to visit neighbours, etc. We have very many pleasant memories.

## **William Cameron by Christina Lyons**

William Cameron was born in Bo'ness, Scotland on January 30, 1891. He apprenticed as a glazier. He and his father emigrated to Canada in 1909. His mother, Margaret Beveridge Cameron and the rest of the family joined them the following year. Robert,



Andrew and Will filed on homesteads south of the Hazel Bluff Church.

Will worked for a farmer at Namao and learned something of farming. He also worked at the Cardiff Coal Mine. Between the times, he was improving his homestead by brushing and breaking the land.

In January of 1918, he and Christina McDougall were married, and he joined the 10th Battalion in Calgary. He went overseas and trained in England, earning the coveted "Cross Arms" for excellent marksmanship. In France he was a sniper. Following the Armistice, he was billeted in Belgium till April, 1919, when he returned to Canada and home.

Their two children were William Malcolm (Mac) born in 1921, and Margaret, born in 1922. In October, 1922, Will lost his life in a farm accident.

Mac and Jean Breadner were married in June 1946, and there are four boys in their family.

Margaret married Bud Fraser in July, 1944. They have a family of two girls and three boys. They live in Barrhead.

In October, 1963 Mac died following a severe heart attack.

## Woodrow Campbell

I remember:—

I came back from overseas January 1, 1946 after nearly five years away. I wanted to farm, so after renting land for the first year, I bought the lease of the Riverdale school quarter, the NE¼ 11-60-1-W5 from Allan Day.

There were about nine acres broken, and I had the



Cliff and JoAnne McCabe 1967

land cleared with a "cat" during the winter of 1946-47.

My brothers, Orley, Niel and Bill, and I broke a hundred acres in 1947.

I married Grace McCabe in 1948 and finished breaking the land in 1950. We bought a prefabricated house and erected it in the summer of 1948.

There were five children born to us and they attended school in Westlock, traveling there by bus.

In 1962 I bought Bill's (my brother's) farm which was all broken. It was the SW¼ 13-60-1-W5. We raised hogs, a few cattle, and grain farmed.

Our son Dennis lives in Edmonton and is in sales of computer products. Laurel also lives in Edmonton and is a computer analyst. Vince married Anne Hughes, and is a journeyman carpenter in Edmonton. Jim married Lori Kennedy and lives in Lamont where he is employed by Shell Oil. Diane married Roger Scheffler and works in the Bank of Nova Scotia in Westlock.

We are now retired and live on the original building site of three acres. Our land is now owned by Park and Beth Letts.



Grace (nee McCabe) and Woodrow Campbell. 1967

## History of E. B. Campbell (Eric and Ethel)

by Woodrow Campbell

My parents came from Restoule, Ontario near North Bay to Alsask, Saskatchewan in 1917 where my mother's brothers were farming. In 1916 there was a real good crop on the prairie but for the next

five years crops were poor so the family moved to the Westlock District known as Hazel Bluff area. They brought four children with them; Velva, Bill, Woodrow and Jean and settled on S.E. 16-60-R27 west of the 4th purchased from the original owner, R. Wilks for \$500.00. They also homesteaded the adjoining east quarter, S.W. of 15-60-R27 W of the 4th. In 1927 they bought the S.W. of 16-60-R27 W of the 4th from a veteran of the first world war, named McVee for \$500.00 and assumed his loan for \$7,776.00 from the Soldier Settlement Board. The original homesteader was R. E. Woods, but neither of these two had cleared more than 60 acres. The remaining land was cleared and broke in the next few years.

I can remember Len Stanton and his 15:30 McCormick tractor and Frank Wightman also did the other part of the breaking. The breaking was done for the whole 177 acres and was in crop in 1929. Dad joined the Wheat Pool and like many others hoping the price would go up eventually though he sold the grain for 29¢ a bushel.

Dad went ahead and built on to the house adding an upstairs and moving the kitchen down from the original home. The new home still stands today. There were 6 more children born; Leonard, Neil, Orley, Della, Anna and Norma before 1931 and the depression was on. We never went hungry or lacked for entertainment or clothing. All the kids attended school at Riverdale and some went to High School at Sunny Bank.

Dad was good at keeping the bill collectors away. I remember one instance in 1935, the day the Social Credit Government was elected. It hailed the oat crop that Dad was cutting with the binder and a collector came out to the edge of the field. I was stooking at the time and Dad made another round with the binder. The collector walked up to Dad and asked him what he was going to do about the payments. Dad looked at him and told him his share was there on the ground. We raised hogs, which were called the mortgage lifters, and eventually paid all the debts off in the early 1940's. The Aberhart Social Credit government put a moratorium on debts for 2 or 3 years to protect the farmers from being thrown off the land. Farming was done with horses and the first tractor was bought in 1929 a 15:30 International.

Mom worked tirelessly, sewing, churning butter, cooking and keeping all us kids fed. All the neighbor kids joined together after supper in MacDougalls' yard or the school yard, sometimes at our place to play soft ball in the summer or skate in the winter. The families all averaged 6 to 10 kids and we never lacked for entertainment. Leonard and I went overseas and Leonard was killed in Italy in 1944. Velva married Roy Deller and resides at Campbell River,

B.C. I married Grace MacCabe and reside on the land Riverdale School was on. Bill married Florence Dent in White Rock, B.C. and died in 1973. Jean married Henry McClinton and resides in Vancouver. Neil married Daisy Purdy and died when he was 42 of a heart attack. Orley married Yvonne Kelly and resides in Penticton B.C. Della married Louis Garth and resides in Edmonton. Anna married George Plain and resides in Kelowna. Norma married Don Plain but passed away in 1962 during child birth. I am the only one that remained farming until two years ago. Dad passed away in 1950 and mother passed away in 1982.

The memories of the early days will always be with me when the family was all at home and we sang around the piano or played cards.

## **The Campo Family by Reta Campo**

In 1908 James Campo came to Edmonton from Ontario. He operated a dry cleaning business and tailor shop there. He and Martha Jeffry were married in 1916. They lived for one year in Edmonton, then they moved to High Prairie for a season. There were only trails through heavy bush at that time and no neighbors for miles around.

About 1918, they rented a farm one mile south of Westlock for a short time, then they bought a quarter of land, NE17-59-26-W4, which is three and a half miles south of town. There were no buildings and no land broken, so it took lots of hard work getting the land ready to produce crops. It was all done by hand, with the help of horses.

They had a family of three, Cecil, Ralph and Reta. As the children grew, they shared in the work about the farm. They got their education in Wood Glen School, two and a half miles away.

The buying of the first family car was a big event. It was a 1929 Model A Deluxe Ford bought in 1938. We would make a trip to Edmonton twice a year, leaving home at 7 a.m. and getting to the city by 9 a.m. as the stores were opening. That old car went through some tough roads. Usually it was laid up for a few months in the winter as the snow got too deep. There were no snowplows in those days! In the winter we had to go back to driving horses.

Ralph and his wife, Zeffie, now live in Westlock. They have one son. Cecil and his wife, Marjorie live on Vancouver Island. They have a son and a daughter. Reta lives on an acreage south of Westlock.

James Campo died in 1958, and Martha passed away in 1962.



## Henry Cannard by Rita Cannard

In 1904, Henry Cannard left the Manitoulin Island, Ontario, on a harvest excursion to Minot, North Dakota, at the same time to see the prospects of



Harry Cannard.



Henry Cannard and grandson Murray. 1939.

buying farm land. Finding nothing he liked, he went scouting the following year, travelling as far as Winnipeg. The third attempt, in 1906, took him to Edmonton, where things seemed much more promising.



Gordon Cannard, grandson of Henry Cannard, with great-grandsons Allen and Wayne.

In 1907 he, his brother-in-law William Sterling, and William Woods, following Henry's advice, all came west and found homesteads north of Edmonton in the area west of Clyde and south of Edison.

Henry and his son, Myron, rode in the freight car from Ontario to Edmonton to look after the livestock, machinery and household effects. His wife, Minnie (Sterling) Cannard had died in Ontario several years earlier. Two of his four daughters, Mae and Grace, came to the West. Grace died in 1916. Mae stayed for several years but returned to Ontario. Henry lived for many years on his homestead, four miles west of Vimy.



Two storey granary built by Henry Cannard. Still in use after nearly sixty years.

Here he built a large log barn, in 1912. Wooden pegs were used to tie the logs together on the corners. It was used for cattle and horses, with the middle section for hay. The old barn was demolished in 1980. Another building on the Cannard farm was a large, two-storey frame granary; a long staircase on the outside led to the upstairs, where there was a large floor space. During the 1920's this building was the scene of many wedding parties and dances.

Henry retired into Westlock, where he died in 1940.

Myron took over the family farm and now his son, Gordon, and his family own the farm.

## **Gordon Cannard** **by Rita Cannard**

In 1942 Gordon joined the Canadian Air Force as an airframe mechanic and served three and a half years. He married Rita Sabourin in March, 1943.



Gordon and Rita Cannard in 1955 with their six children. Another son was born in 1961.

After his discharge from the Air Force, Gordon and Rita came back to farming and bought a quarter section from Alex Brown. In 1948 he bought his Dad's farm, which was Henry Cannard's homestead, and in future years bought more land in the same area.

There are seven children; Allen, Jean, Roy, Dale, Shirley, Keith, and Wayne. All of them attended the Vimy and Westlock Schools.

Gordon and Rita are involved in many organiza-



Five sons of Rita and Gordon Cannard: Allen, Roy, Dale, Keith and Wayne. 1963.

tions and local affairs etc. In 1981 they received the "Farm Family of the Year" award.

Gordon is very proud of his Maine-Anjou cattle, which he has shown at Regina, Stettler, Camrose, Red Deer and Edmonton.



Gordon Cannard with two of his cattle.

## **Myron Cannard** **by Rita Cannard**

Myron married Christina Marshall in October, 1921. From this union six children were born: Gordon, Grace, Lloyd, Ethel, Murray and Joyce. They all attended Elk Park School. They moved to Dapp for a few years, then returned to the farm in the Vimy District.





Myron and Christina Cannard with their son Gordon.

In 1948, Myron and Christina and the two youngest children retired to New Westminster, B.C. Myron died in 1979. Christina is presently (1982) living at Meadow Park Lodge in Edmonton, Alberta.

Lloyd lives at Cawston, B.C., Murray is at Grande Prairie and Joyce is living in Burnaby, B.C. Grace and Ethel reside in Edmonton, and Gordon is farming at Vimy.



Myron Cannard's 80th birthday. L to R: George Sterling, Teena and Myron, Ethel Rogers from Ontario. George and Ethel are Myron's cousins.

## George Carew Family written by Ernie Dagg

The Carew family came West from Ontario and George was employed in the Cardiff mine. Here he met Hugh Savage, who became the Station Agent at Clyde. Hugh heard that Henry Nickerson required a helper in his store and at once said "I know a man, much too fine a man to work in a mine, who has store experience, that will come." Hugh Savage asked Mrs. Olsen if she would rent her corner house, to which she said "yes". The Carew family moved to Clyde in 1916 and accepted the job. Kate, Mrs. Olsen's daughter, said you could set your clock when you heard Mr. Carew coming by whistling "Turkey in the Straw," on his way to work. You would hear this through the years at any job he was at throughout his life.

George bought and farmed the N.E. 33-59-25W4th Meridian (Clyde corner off Highways 2 and 18). In winter he worked in Con Johnson's saw mill northwest of Dapp, hauling lumber with a team and sleigh to this area. When he wanted to come home for a week end, he would just start walking and if no ride was available, he would likely make the trip in ten hours. George and Con Johnston built many hip-roofed barns in the area.

George, and George K. Brownell drilled wells all over the country. They struck the first flowing well on the Matthew Gillies farm, four miles north of Highway, on the Old Pibroch road.

He worked in the Shipyards during the last war, came home many times and helped with haying or harvesting or hauling grain to bins or elevators as his holidays. He made his home at our place (Daggs') while he built annexes for several Searle Grain elevators. He travelled around the Province with Mr. Reid, foreman with Searle Co., checking weigh scales. He met Harold Kinsman operating an elevator at Ryrson, Saskatchewan, who later moved to Clyde in 1943. George then did carpenter work at the Estevan, Saskatchewan, Airport in 1942.

George settled back in Clyde in 1953, joined the Lions Club and at the age of sixty-nine, bought a car again, after a lapse of twenty-three years. During the next twenty years he did odd jobs, building and painting, drove a tractor to help out Don McLaughlin. He built himself a new home in Clyde in 1959 at age seventy-five years.

He represented the Village of Clyde, along with Harry Steiger, on the planning committee in the construction of the Westlock Pembina Lodge. This was to become his home at the age of eighty-four years in 1968. He made many trips back and forth to Clyde with his car, finally giving up driving at the age of ninety-two.

He lived in Pembina Lodge for thirteen years and after a few months in hospital and Auxiliary hospital, he passed away at the age of ninety-seven years in 1981. He had repeated scriptures all night before fading away to be in his Maker's hands.

George Carew was the most beloved father, grandfather, great grandfather and friend to all who knew him.

### **Tom Carruthers** by Olive Hope

In the early 1900's, Tom Carruthers came to the Clyde district and filed on the SE¼-19-60-25-W4. He was from Ontario.

Tom always wore a big moustache, and in the winter time it would get loaded with frost. His log cabin was always very clean and everything was kept in its proper place. The ladies in the district said he had the cleanest house for miles around, which was quite a compliment!

He was a good violin player, and was constantly in demand to play at the local house parties in the wintertime. He never got married.

When he got older he was crippled with a very bad hip, and it was then that Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davis took over his farm. Later on he lived with the Hopes for a while and just chored around, helping to look after the stock and barns. One morning he had been cleaning out the cowbarn, and pretty soon he came in with his teeth in his hand. He put them in the wash basin and started to wash them. He was asked what had happened and he said he had sneezed and his teeth had popped out onto the barn floor. When asked if he was still going to put them back in his mouth he replied, "I sure am. I can't afford to throw my teeth away for a bit of cow manure!" Another time he got a very sore hand, which looked like blood poisoning. Someone told him that a poultice made from a fresh "cow pie" would cure it, so he used that. He was in town some time later, so he went to the doctor to have his hand checked. He told the doctor that he had put a poultice on it, but didn't tell him of what it consisted. The doctor said, "I don't know what poultice you used, but it certainly saved your arm."

The last few years of his life he made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hobart, and when he passed away he was buried in Dungannon Cemetery.

### **Casavant Family**

Aime A. L. Casavant, born May 15, 1898, at Salix, Iowa, the second youngest of a family of nine, moved to Legal, Alberta at the age of one-and-a-half years. His family left Iowa because of several years of crop failures due to the drought in that area.

When Aime was six, his father died. With the help of the older children, his mother was able to remain on the farm. Eventually, he took over the farm work and assisted in the running of a rural post office at Casavant Corner.

In 1917, Aime bought a quarter section of land, located two miles east and one mile south of Vimy, from Mr. William LaMarche.

On February 26, 1924, Aime married Helena M. B. Riopel at Morinville, Alberta. Helena, born January 24, 1900, in Morinville, was the fourth youngest of a family of fourteen.



Wedding of Aime A. L. Casavant and Helena M. B. Riopel, Feb. 26, 1924.

Helena's parents came from Quebec in 1891, and were the first pioneer settlers recruited by Father Morin to colonize the Morinville area.

Aime and Helena lived with Aime's mother for two years before moving to their farm at Vimy. During this time two children were born; Madelaine — born on December 7, 1924, who died on December 22, 1924, and Albert — born on January 1, 1926.

In the spring of 1926, they moved to Vimy with



their young son, Albert. By then a log shack had been fixed to live in and some buildings had been readied for cattle, chickens, horses and pigs. It was a busy year, planting crops, gardening and clearing more land. Neighbours helped one another exist, which was crucial at that time. These were truly pioneering days.

In the ensuing years eight more children were born. All were born at home, with the assistance of mid-wives or doctors making house calls.

The children born in Vimy are as follows:

Diana — March 30, 1927 (Mrs. Stan Byrtus, Athabasca) — 4 children.

Lucien — May 15, 1928 (wife — Yvonne, Colinton) — 4 children.

Aline — May 15, 1928 (Mrs. Don Hoberg, Provost) — 2 children.

Aline and Lucien were born on their father's 30th birthday.

Therese — October 3, 1929 (Mrs. Joe Sanche, Edmonton) — 6 children.

Denise — June 28, 1931, deceased 1980. (Mrs. Ed Meunier, Morinville) — 2 children.

Antionette — March 31, 1934 (Mrs. Alois Byrtus, Athabasca) — 4 children.

Gerard — November 3, 1936 (wife — Sherry, Courtenay, B.C.) — 4 children.

Francois — September 18, 1939 (wife — Bernice, Edmonton) — 2 children.



Aime Casavant family, 1950. Back row, L to R: Antionette (Byrtus), Lucien, Diana (Byrtus), Albert, Denise, Gerard, Therese (Sanche). Front row: Aline (Hoberg), Helena (Meunier), Aime, Francois.

During their thirty-three years in Vimy, the Casavant family experienced some hardships, like the depression, along with some good times. For a period of time, Aime was a school trustee for the Boudreau School. He was also quite involved with church and community activities. As for Helena,

besides having a busy household, she was a member of Les Dames de Ste Anne, and also helped with church functions.

On November 15, 1950, Albert married Yvonne Beauchamp of Jeffrey, Alberta. They built a house in the yard of Albert's parents' farm. Louise, their eldest daughter, was born on August 20, 1952. Meanwhile Albert and Lucien bought farm land near Colinton, Alberta. Three other children were born to Albert and Yvonne at Colinton.

In July, 1953, Albert, Yvonne, Louise and Lucien moved to Colinton.

In 1959, Mr. and Mrs. Aime Casavant retired from farming and moved to the village of Legal. Subsequently, in December, 1972, they entered the Chateau Sturgeon Senior Citizens' Home also in Legal. On April 17, 1976, Aime passed away. Helena is still in good health and still resides at the Chateau Sturgeon.

## Marion E. Caton

by Bertha Holman

My father, Marion E. Caton, was working with the McMillan boys, Jim, Tom and George in Kansas. In 1899 (not sure of date) they all decided to go up to Canada to homestead. They went up forty miles north of Edmonton and filed on ¼ sections of land. They had to break up the land and improve it with cattle, horses, fences etc. in order to own it.

Alex Lentz bought the eighty acres south of the Caton place. The Bill Overton place was east of our place. He was a dentist. My Mother worked for him.

There was a large house, barn and milk house and well on Marion Caton's place which he helped build. Later he had a well drilled for the stock. He became postmaster for that settlement and they named the Post-Office Echo Hill. Every Monday and Thursday he would go two miles south and two miles west to a small town called Busby to pick up the mail. Then on Tuesday and Friday morning he would deliver the mail on the rural route to Belvedere. It was about forty miles west of Busby. He used a horse and buggy to deliver the mail in summer and in the winter he used a bob sleigh. He later got a Model T Ford touring car to use to deliver the mail. (I believe it was around 1912).

He married my Mother, Eva Fulgham in 1912 and they had three daughters Velma, Bertha and Eva Mae.

He later bought 160 acres across the road from our place. Mr. Mathews lived south of that land. He used it for pasture and broke it up and grew hay, grain and corn.

About 1927 they put the first telephone lines in and we had the only telephone for miles around. My

Mother acted as central and charged by the minute for each call and sent it in to the company.

When we moved to the United States, we sold both our places to George McMillan and his son Tom lived there later. That was in 1929.

We bought a 1928 Star car and drove to Washington State U.S.A. My Father Marion Caton, died the following year 1930. My sister Velma, married and had one child and died in 1970. My youngest sister also married and had one daughter. My sister Eva Mae also died in 1979. My Mother lives in a retirement home, she is eighty-seven. I, Bertha, married and had one son and also twin sons. One died at six weeks with spinal meningitis. My husband died in 1973. I married my brother-in-law (Velma's Husband) and we have been married seven years now.

(I picked up this information in 1971 when I went back to visit the school and copied it from the records there).

In 1907 one acre of land was bought from the estate of Mr. Jim McMillan for \$20.00 on which the Vermillion Springs School was built the same year. The clearing of the land was done by Mr. Fred Wirtz for \$20.00. The lumber was purchased from Mr. Joseph Brickman costing \$116.78 for 9788 feet. The lumber was hauled and dry piled by H. C. Tally and Marion Caton for \$52.50. The doors, windows, shingles and finishing lumber was purchased from Cushing Bros. Edmonton for \$80.50. The carpenter work was done by J. E. Vannatter for \$132.55. This also included hauling five tons of freight from Edmonton and building the chimney. The school was painted in 1908 by J. F. Cotton for \$65.00. It was fenced by Chas. Tally for \$23.00. In 1931 John Newton was hired at the rate of 35¢ per hour to put in new windows and any other repairs. He also painted the school for \$20.00. In 1921, 22, 23 Marion Caton was secretary of the Vermillion Springs School. The teachers usually boarded at our place and also at Lentz's.

My Mother's family, Samuel and Nora Fulgham, had nine children. They were, Irven, Emma, Eva, Lillie, Bertha, Albert, Orvil, Ruby, and Ruth. Mother's folks, Sam and Nora, owned an orchard up by Daisy, Washington and they sold it and rented a railroad car and moved all the household things, horses and all. Mother and seven children went on the passenger train. The railroad was the Edmonton-Dunvegan Railroad and it went through to the Peace River country.

Emma married Wilbert Maxwell. His folks lived near Pickardville, Alta. When their child, Zada was two weeks old, in 1910, they went to Canada. Wilbert bought a place on section 35 and built a house and they moved on to it. He started clearing and plough-

ing with a yoke of oxen. In the spring he went to Edmonton to earn some money. He was working in Mr. Walters saw mill. He was a sawyer and the tail sawyer didn't take a slab away soon enough and it came back over the saw and killed him instantly. Emma later married Will Virding and they had another daughter named Nora. They lived over by Arvilla.

Irven and Carrie were married a couple of weeks before Zada was born in Washington state. He had part ownership in a saw mill and he sold it in 1911 and went up by Pickardville, Alta. He filed on section 35 N.W. of Wilbert's quarter. They lived there several years. They had five children, Devessa, Delbert, Lloyd, Phylis and Marion. Irven died in 1933.

Samuel Fulgham filed on a ¼ section of land about ten miles northwest of Busby. The children went to the Arvilla school. There were several families around there that were Church of God people. Mr. May was a minister so they held church in the schoolhouse on Sundays.

Samuel Fulgham had so much bad luck. He was hauled out three times and lost a couple of fine work horses and a good milk cow. He went south to work through harvest. He moved to Provost, Alta. and built a large house on a quarter of land. They moved back to Toppenish, Washington in 1926 because of my Grandmother's health. Samuel died in 1932 and Nora died in 1947.

Orvel Fulgham and wife Helen live at Paradise Valley. Some of Irven's children live up there yet. Devessa died. Delbert Fulgham lives at 6303-149 Ave. Edmonton, Alberta. Lloyd Fulgham lives at 16401-87 Ave. Edmonton, Alberta. I don't have Phylis and Marions addresses.

## **The Charlier Family** **by Jeanne Roška**

My grandparents, Alexandre and Alexandrine Charlier and their children, Eugene (my father) and Clara left their home in Melreux, Luxembourg, in the year 1912.

Grand'père had been an accomplished violinist and was considered the best baritone singer in Belgium at the time. He performed at the Royal Conservatory in Liege, but it did not provide the type of living he wanted for himself and his family. His forefathers held the patent for the manufacturing of linear measurements, but this fell by the wayside when the universal system of measurement was changed. There was very little work to be had, therefore the Charlier family decided to move to Canada. Eugene was nine years old and Clara was seven.

They boarded the ship "Lake Michigan" on the





Mr. and Mrs. A. Charlier, 1948.

8th of May, 1912, at Anvers, Belgium. It took fifteen days to cross the Atlantic. At one point the "Lake Michigan" sat for three days without moving because icebergs had been spotted in the distance. A short time before, the "Titanic" had sunk with a tragic loss of life, so the ship's crew was being extremely cautious.

They arrived at the port of Quebec on the 23rd of May, 1912, after which they boarded a train and travelled across Canada to Leduc. While travelling, Grand'père wrote some of his impressions of the new land. He had heard varied opinions of Canada in Belgium, and he wondered, "How shall I know the truth?" and his answer was, "The only way is to go and see, and that is what I have done." When they arrived in Leduc there was a terrible rainstorm, and no one there to meet them. After several hours, a gentleman with a team of horses and an open wagon offered to drive them to a French family by the name of Curial, living in the area.

A combination of rain, mud, and less than ideal living accommodations had Granny determined to return to Belgium immediately. Grand'père must have been a persuasive fellow though, because the family ended up moving to Beaumont, where they were to remain until the following year. Granny found work helping out the Peter Berube family, Grand'père did carpenter work and the children went to school.

While in Beaumont they met a Mr. Charest who had filed on a homestead at La Calmette, the SW

20-58-25-W4, which was then part of the district of Dunrobin. He had put up lumber for a house, but had left the homestead untouched. He wanted to cancel his homestead agreement, therefore Granny and Grand'père took it over from him.

Their trip to La Calmette was slow, as they were travelling in a covered wagon, pulled by a team of oxen. They also had two cows which they had to herd along. When they came to Arthur Trudel's farm they could go no further. There was no road, so Mr. Trudel and Grand'père spent six weeks clearing brush and building two strips of corduroy over the worst sections to the homestead.



Mr. and Mrs. A. Charlier, 1941.

Once they arrived, they lived in a tent until a house could be built. It didn't take long to put up a shell of a house, but it was cold and Dad remembers daylight shining through the cracks upstairs.

They had also acquired a couple of pigs for which they had built a small rough enclosure. It was not a fool proof enclosure for the pigs managed to get out and were never seen again.

The children looked after the cattle, but there were no fences and the herd which had now increased to four, sometimes got away. Once, during a rainstorm, the cattle wandered away. Grand'père took off to find them. He assumed they had crossed the river two miles north of his place, so he undressed, forded the river, and went in search of his herd. He was gone all day and all night. He returned the following day tired, hungry, soaked to the bones, and quite irritable. Granny enquired as to whether he had eaten, to which he replied, "I sucked the cow."

Granny was a great worrier but a deeply religious lady. Her rosary went with her wherever she went, and often when they encountered troubles on the road, Grand'père would be doing the work while Granny was doing her share on her rosary.

During the winter of 1913-1914, Granny went back to Beaumont to work for the Berube family. Clara went along with her while Dad remained at La Calmette with Grand'père.

The following year Granny found employment cooking at the Legal Hotel for Mr. Lamare, so the children went with her to go to school in Legal.

After that, Dad worked for Mr. and Mrs. Morissette and Jerome Beart to earn his room and board. From there he moved on to work for Mr. and Mrs. Parenteau. That year he remembers a heavy frost in July. It froze all the grain and even the potatoes, which were only the size of pullet eggs.

In the fall of 1918 the Spanish Flu struck. Every public place had to be closed. By this time Grand'père was living in Legal. He had purchased a couple of lots on which he built a house. He spent the winter ministering to the sick and helping wherever he could. Grand'père worked all winter as an orderly helping the doctor in the hospital. Granny looked after the Trudel family who had been struck by the flu. Dad hauled feed over a distance of fifteen miles each day with a team of horses. This was for a couple who had seventy head of cattle and twelve horses but were too sick to go outdoors.

On November 28, 1923, Clara married Nelson Brown and over the years raised a family of ten children; three sons who farm in the general area and seven daughters.

Grand'père spent his time in Legal, and enjoyed singing regularly at the Roman Catholic Church. He sang there for many years. Even at the age of 85 years, he was able to travel to Edmonton to sing a song over the French station CHFA. The song he had sung was "Les Souvenirs D'Un Veillard". After he was unable to sing at the church, Mr. Mullen took his place.

In 1927 Dad purchased the farm from his folks for \$2500.00 and he proceeded to brush and clear the land so that he could begin to farm his own place.

On November 7, 1934 Dad married the neighbour's daughter. Her name was Olga Oloske. They had two daughters — Annette and Jeanne. They built a new house on the farm in 1941 and added to the farmstead as the years went along. Olga (my mother) was a good gardener and they won a Farm Beautification Award for her efforts in keeping the farmyard well groomed, treed and flowered.

My mother's family was of German descent. They arrived in Canada in 1928. Her family consisted

of her parents, Julius and Natalia, a sister Agatha and a brother Alex. Because of political unrest in Europe, they made hurried arrangements to come to Canada, leaving all their possessions behind. They brought along only their clothes and a total of \$18.00 with which to start a new life. When they arrived in Canada they also headed west to Legal, where they lived with the Bauers who were cousins of the family. After a few months they left the Bauers and went to live in a house that belonged to another relative, Archie Laing, of Legal. Two years later, in 1932, they purchased a quarter of land from the CPR in the Vimy area. They were a hard working family and it didn't take them long to clear and gain more land in the area.

At the present time Annette Lawrence is married, has two daughters and is living in Florida. Jeanne Roska (myself) have three children and I am living on the original homestead which my husband and I purchased from my parents in 1974.

I am proud of my heritage and have a great deal of respect for my parents and grandparents. They suffered a great deal in order to survive as homesteaders, and yet they never lost their zest for life. They always remembered the good times, and loved to talk of "the good old days."

## **Charrois, Jean B.** **by Alice Gagne**

Jean B. Charrois was born in St. Rock des Aulnais P.Q. on February 26, 1881, and married Claudia Pelletier in 1904. Claudia was also born in St. Rock on July 18, 1883. In 1922 they moved to Legal, Alta., and in 1923, Jean B. bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  24-58-25-W4 from a Mr. Dumont and with his family cleared the land with an axe and horses.

Jean B. and Claudia had eleven children: Adrien married Edna Lamoureux in 1928. They are now retired in Edmonton, Alta. Adelia married Omer Chretien in 1931. They are now retired in Port Alberni, B.C. Aurel married Marie Ange Fortin in 1934. He passed away in 1963, and Marie Ange is retired in Edmonton, Alta. Willie married Alice Dalton in 1938. They are retired in Jousard, Alta. Antonio married Phyllis Hubert in 1934. They are operating their store in Jousard, Alta. Simone married David Brandon in 1935. They are retired in Edmonton, Alta. Patrick married Annette Boutin in 1940. They are retired in Legal, Alta. Adeloza married Ubald Couture in 1938. Ubald passed away in 1976. She resides in Debden, Sask. Alexandra married Henry Dalton in 1943. Henry passed away in 1960. She resides in Edmonton, Alta. Glory married Annette Babineau in 1949 and they reside in Jousard, Alta.



Leo married Isabelle Pouliot in 1948, and they reside in Legal, Alta.

Jean B. passed away in 1944, and his wife Claudia passed away in 1968. They had farmed the land for 22 years. Their son Patrick then farmed this land for 28 years. Now Patrick's son Maurice has been farming the same land for the past 10 years. All the children except the two oldest went to Boudreau School.

## **The Jean-Marie Chauvet Family**

**by Paul Chauvet**

My father, Jean-Marie Chauvet, was born in 1876 at Savenay, Brittany, France. He came to Canada in 1901. He worked for a few months in Manitoba, then came to Legal and homesteaded in the school district of Springfield. This area was known as Springfield because of the numerous springs, where horses and cattle had flowing water to drink the year round. These springs were located at the time on the Trudel, Pressoir, Chauvet, Billo (Beaudoin), Chabot (Toupin), Bunchan, Bourgeois, and other neighboring farms.

About five years after my father came to Legal, his father and mother, as well as his brothers and sisters came to join him. He is the fourth generation to live on and own the place. His children are the fifth generation to live on the land of their forefathers.

In 1912, my father decided to grow wheat, and wheat has been the main cereal crop to be grown ever since. In 1932, he harvested five car loads of #1 wheat, two of which was graded #1 hard Spring Wheat, equivalent to the highest grade of the Western Prairies.

One of the most difficult and saddest periods of his life took place in 1918. We were all sick with the 'flu' and so were the neighbours. I remember being the only one of the family who was well enough to go outside to get the firewood which was needed to keep the house warm. Our close neighbour, Mrs. Remillard, and my mother, were victims of the 'flu'. They passed away just a few days apart. My father remarried in 1920.

There were eight children in our family. I am Paul, the oldest. I graduated from the University of Alberta after taking my high school at home. In those days, for one to continue to higher education was difficult. There was no High School close enough to attend and there was always plenty of work to be done around the farm. I married Simone Provost in 1941 and we have eight children living. Yvonne, the one next to me, now lives in Vancouver. She has travelled a lot and seen many continents. Simone, who became a Grey Nun, graduated with a Master's Degree in Nursing. She passed away at an early age. She was

nursing at the Holy Cross Hospital in St. Paul, Alberta when she took sick. Next came a baby sister, who died while only a few months old, in 1917. My brother Louis, married Maureen Dier, and they had eleven children. Ten are now living, as Johnny, the oldest, passed away in July, 1981. Louis went to the Olds Agricultural School, then to the University of Alberta where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. Marie, (Mrs. Hermas Lefebvre) became a nurse, then a teacher, and is still teaching in Ontario. She had six children. Germaine (Mrs. Raymond Santos) taught school in Alberta, Ontario and in the Panama. She now resides in New York with her husband and two children. Jeanne (Mrs. Clement Beauchamp) is still very active as a secretary. There are three boys and a girl in the family. We had a brother, Andre, who passed away in 1938 at the age of thirteen. My father passed away in Edmonton in 1961, and Mother passed away in September 1981.

The pioneers were great and courageous people. They worked hard, knew hard times. Their generation and ours are leaving our children thousands of schools and well trained teachers. Higher education is no longer a dream for the few, but rather a reality obtainable to all who want it. We are still leaving our children a challenge. It is that of finding an alternative for war and racial hatred. It may be a difficult task, but I believe they will have the courage and strength to do it.

## **The Thomas Clement Family**

**excerpts from the Memoirs of Dorothy Clement**

Our father, Damas, known as Thomas Clement, was born on November 8, 1859 in Alfred, Ontario. When he was old enough, he left home to work in the lumber camps around Michigan, U.S.A. Later he and his older brother Charles, wandered west and stopped at Bannock, the first capital of the State of Montana. The gold rush was on and they panned for gold and worked in the mines along Grasshopper Creek. It was in Bannock that the vigilantes hanged their crooked sheriff, Henry Plummer and his gang. Dad married Delia Bessett, a local girl. He bought a ranch where he raised horses and also owned a saloon in partnership with his brother-in-law, Bill McManis. They had one daughter, Esther (our half sister). A second child was born but both mother and infant son died.

In late 1902 Dad went east to visit his sister, Emilie Chamberland. Here he met Rose Delima Lesveque (born June 25, 1876) and on February 10, 1903 they were married, returning to Bannock to live. Our mother had worked in the cotton mills in Massachusetts and in Montreal from the age of ele-



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clement and Dorothy.

ven. She soon adjusted to her new surroundings and was famous for her home-made bread which she sold to the miners.

In 1898 Uncle Charles left for the Klondike with two companions. The trail led them through the area around Busby. They were greatly impressed with the land which promised to be good for farming and ranching. On his return to Bannock he talked about this to Dad. The result was that Dad sold all his holdings in Bannock and bought four quarters of land four miles east of Busby, (SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  27-57-26-W4th, S  $\frac{1}{2}$  27-57-26 W4th, NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  27-57-26 W4th) and one quarter section near Egg Lake.

In the spring of 1911 we boarded the train in Dillon, Montana. There were Mother, I (Dorothy), Charlie, Fern and Alice. We all had new clothes and shoes. Alice (9 months old) wore a new little white bonnet. As we stood on the platform the big engine came puffing in and blew steam on our legs.

Dad loaded one box-car with our furniture and another with eleven horses and our dog Duffy with his new collar, chain and nose muzzle. Dad and Uncle Charlie rode in the box-car to look after the horses. On June 6, 1911 we crossed the Canada/US border and on June 11th we arrived in Morinville, the end of the railroad line. We spent the night in the

Morinville Hotel. The next morning it was pouring rain. Dad went to the store and bought the supplies and equipment we needed. He hitched one team of horses to the new wagon and loaded our furniture on it. Another team was hitched to our democrat and we were on our way. There were lots of sloughs with a lot of water. It rained all day and we arrived late in the evening at our new home. The house was very dirty with mice running all over the place. Rain dripped all over the kitchen lean-to and we had to put pots and pans everywhere. The stove was set up. Mother was very disappointed.

That summer we could see prairie fires burning in the night towards Busby. When September came, Mother walked with us to school (Springview). Mr. McDougall was our first teacher. We always walked to school, but two of our friends, Grace and Belle Munroe, were brought to school in a sleigh driven by a team of oxen in the winter. Other classmates were Harold and Ralph Overton, Lorne, Geneva, John and Dood McConaghy, Bob and Emily May and John, Earl and Marie Madden. Dad served on the Springview schoolboard. Our first Christmas concert Mother made the Santa Claus suit and sewed the bags for treats. I (Dorothy) recited a poem as follows:

Perhaps you think I'm very small  
To speak a poem like this  
But I'm big enough to love you all  
And throw you all a kiss.

Mr. Pete Grey, another one of our teachers, taught us the song "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" taken from a clipping from the Family Herald. He used a tuning fork. Charlie remembers having to go out and cut his own little switch and peel it when he misbehaved. At recess we played a game of "Steal the Bricks".

In September of 1911, Mr. Lutz from Legal drilled our artesian well and we never had to pump water —



Clement family. L to R: Charlie, Dorothy, Esther, Alice, Mrs. Clement, Louis, Fern, Winnie.



just opened the tap and the big tank would fill up in no time. In those days cattle roamed at large and watered at our well. Mr. Rogers, one of our neighbors, used our well. (One year in the 1920's there was a drought and our neighbor, Mr. Haddigan — two miles west — drove his herd of eighty head of cattle to our place every day for water all summer).

Dad worked hard clearing the land with the help of Godfrey Mailhot, Joe Caouette, Emerie Theberge and Octave Schenecal. Uncle Charlie worked around the yard. One day he emptied some hot ashes around the "Little Shack Out Back" and burned it down. Mother also worked very hard making three full meals a day for the six men, milking eight cows, washing the cream separator, school lunches, sewing all our clothes and knitting. We shipped cream to Edmonton. The cheques kept us in groceries all summer. In the fall at freeze-up a beef was butchered, quartered and buried in the grain.

Dad, in partnership with a neighbor, Art Rochon, had a sawmill in Flatbush from December 4, 1913 to 1916. He also bought a threshing machine with a stationary engine. Charlie remembers the men having to remove the straw and stacking it behind the machine by hand.

In 1914 the Dunvegan railroad went through Busby. It was a big event for us. Dad took us in the wagon to see the first train go by.

In 1915 our new barn, constructed of 6×6 squared tamaracks, cut on the land south of our place, was built by Sid Grove from Arvilla. Two lean-tos were added a few years later.

Louis and Winnie were born in the old house. In the spring of 1917 Lucien Mercier from Legal built our new house with fourteen rooms. We moved in, in the fall and it was finished during the winter. The water from the well was piped into the house. We did our share of entertaining such as card parties, games and some dances. Our fiddlers were Bert Logan, Emile Hamel and Oscar Trudel. Fern accompanied on the piano and Wilbrod Hamel was our local caller.

Our father passed away in 1920 and was buried in Legal. Mother carried on with the help of Henry Daigneault. Everyone pitched in. The girls milked the cows and helped with the haying and other chores.

We bought our first car in 1921, a Model T Touring car. In 1930 we bought our tractor with lugs, in 1931 our new threshing machine and in 1941 we put up a windcharger that provided electricity to the house, barn and yard.

We attended church at St. Emile's Parish in Legal until 1932 when St. Anthony's church in Busby was built. Every year we would help with the big church Chicken Suppers. Busby and district was a very

mixed community, both in nationalities and religions, however, as community members we were all one. Everyone always pitched in when anyone needed help and everybody supported the other's activities. It was a great place to live.

The Busby Picnic was a highlight of our lives. Charlie, and Louis who was the pitcher, were on the Busby Baseball team which took a trophy one year, while we girls played softball. Every fall an Agricultural Fair was held and we won many prizes for our exhibits of grain, vegetables, baking, sewing and other crafts.

We went to high school at the convent in Legal and Morinville. It was important to mother that we all get a good education. Charlie went on to the Jesuit College in Edmonton for eight years and graduated with a B.Sc. Degree. Louis went two years to the Jesuit College and then took a mechanics course in Edmonton. Dorothy graduated from Normal School and taught school for many years. Fern took a business course for two years in Edmonton and then one term at Vermilion School of Agriculture. She worked in the Busby Post Office. Alice graduated from the Edmonton General Hospital as a registered nurse and worked in the Barrhead and Westlock hospitals. Winnie took a hairdressing course in Edmonton.

Mother and Winnie moved to Edmonton in 1942. In May of 1957 mother passed away and is buried in the family plot in Legal.

Esther married Victor Chamberland and they farmed east of Legal until Victor died during the "Flu" epidemic in 1918. Esther was left with four children, Lorette, Gertrude, Henry and Francis. A few years later she married Avitus Jalbert of Legal, a widower with four children, Willie, Blanche, Eva, Rudolph. They farmed in the Westlock area for a couple of years and then moved to Montreal. They had four more children, Roland, Theresa, Marie-Claire and Denise. Esther still lives in Montreal and celebrated her 90th birthday in February, 1983.

Dorothy married Henry Daigneault. They bought two quarters of land north of the home place (one being the Bohna place). Eventually they sold this land and moved to Vancouver for a few years, only to return and settle in Morinville. They have four children, Andre, Robert, Cecile and Alice.

Fern married Edgar Junck of Busby, a widower with five children, Lewis, Norma, Dodie, Iona and Vincent. They have six more children, Owen, Clement, Wayne, Edgar, Leah and Fern. They lived in Busby where Edgar ran the UGG Grain Elevator, then in Edmonton and finally settled in Grosmont (north of Athabasca) where they farmed and Edgar owned a sawmill. In 1955 they retired in Edmonton. They now go by the name of Jordon.

Alice married Joe Heemeryck of Busby. They started farming on the Rowett Hepburn place and then bought land one mile east and one mile south of Busby (the Saunders place). In 1960 they moved to Edmonton. They have five children Joyce, Philip, Dennis, Norman and Robert.

Charlie married Suzanne Fortier from Legal. They stayed on the home place where they farmed until they retired in Edmonton in 1972. Charlie became active in community work. He was secretary of the Busby Mutual Telephone Company. These records are now in the provincial archives. He was secretary of the Farmer's Union, Director of the Legal Co-op and Credit Union and also served one term as counsellor on the School Board representing West Legal in Morinville. They had five children, Richard, Bernard, Esther, Charles Jr. and Jean.

Louis married Marguerite Smith of Busby. They bought the Daigneault farm in 1945 where they farmed for many years. In 1959 they moved to Edmonton where Louis worked for Imperial Oil for ten years and then at Alberta Hospital as supervisor of the Carpenter Shop. They had two children: Terrance and Randall.

Winnie opened up her own beauty salon in Edmonton. She later worked for CP Air in Edmonton and then in Vancouver.

Thomas and Delima Clement leave 39 grandchildren and 80 great-grandchildren.

## The Coates Family

Although the Coates Family had been living in the Westlock Municipal District since 1936, they did not take up residence in the Town of Westlock until 1958, when they sold their farm in Larkspur, a School District twenty-five miles north-east of Westlock.

Stan had come to Canada from England in 1924,

and worked around the Hayter and Macklin districts until 1935, when he married Bertha Maxey, an English girl who had come out to Canada in 1928. They subsequently purchased the George Ford farm in Lakespur, where their first son, Ronald, was born in 1941. Their chosen son, David, came to live with them in 1951, at the age of three years.

Moving into town was a traumatic experience for the boys, as there had always been plenty of work to keep them busy on the farm, but now they had a lot of time that was difficult to fill. However, it wasn't too long before they adjusted to the new lifestyle, and made new friends.

For about three years, Stan worked in the parts department of Frank Merryweather's John Deere Agency, then later worked for the Westlock School Division until his retirement in 1971. For the next three years he was the book-keeper for Bar-West Plumbing and Heating, which operated from a shop where Westlock Decorating Centre now is.

Both Stan and Bertha were members of the Church of the Nazarene, acting on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Stewards respectively. Bertha was a volunteer worker for the Salvation Army Rural Service Unit for over twenty years, and was a member of the Women of Uniform, in which organization she was President of the Westlock Local for two years. By 1978, due to failing health, she had to give up all her social activities, Medical treatment, and later, surgery, failed to arrest the effects of cancer, and Bertha went to be with her Lord on October 11th., 1979, at the age of 78.

Stan is a member of the Westlock Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the board of the Hire-a-Student Committee, and is an active member of the Golden Age Club. During his three year term as President of the Club, he was successful in getting the addition built to the Drop-in-Centre, which doubled the capacity of the building. He has been Secretary-Treasurer of the Salvation Army R.S.U. for 23 years, and supervised the moving of the building from next to the Post Office to its present site on the corner of 105th. Street and 103rd. Avenue. It is now the Westlock Community Thrift Shop. In 1964, Stan took over from Mr. Walter Burchett the auditing accounts of the Rural Telephone Companies and the Rural Electrification Associations in the Westlock Municipality. These were phased out during the seventies, as they were either sold to, or amalgamated with, Alberta Government Telephone and Calgary Power. As Secretary-Treasurer of the Pembina Livestock Co-operative Association, Stan helped to keep the Association a viable concern, but with the formation of the Alberta Hog Marketing Board, the activities of the Co-op., were gradually taken over by



The Coates family at "Volunteer of the Year" party. L to R: standing David, Ronald. Middle row: Corey, Renee, Danielle, Michelle. Front: Wanda, Stan, Helene.



the Board until it was no longer practicable to continue operation. The co-op., was officially closed out in 1981, approximately forty years after its incorporation.

Several years ago, with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce, Stan was able to influence the members of the Golden Age Club into taking care of the Information Centre for the Midnight Twilight Tourist Association, which was first situated in a trailer at Clyde Corner, but now has a centre in the Westlock Shopping Mall, Parking Lot. The structure was built by the Chamber members and some of the Golden Agers, and in 1981 was landscaped, making it quite an attractive building, with its white picket fence.



L to R: Stan Coates, Bertha, David, Ronald. January 1969.

Ronald married Helene Brassard in 1969, and is now living in Fort Saskatchewan, where he buys the canola seed for the Alberta Food Products oil plant. They have three daughters. David is living in Vernon, B.C., with his wife Wanda, (Emquit) and their chosen son.

On November 5, 1983, Mr. Coates was honored by being chosen one of the recipients of the 1983 Alberta Achievement Awards, which were presented at a ceremony held in the Ballroom of the Westin Hotel at Calgary.

These awards are given to individuals and teams in recognition of the initiative, commitment and effort of those who have contributed significantly to the enrichment of their community and the province.

Stan Coates is noted for his willingness to assist in any worthy volunteer activity. Secretary-Treasurer and Handyman of the Westlock Community Thrift Shop for the past 23 years, no job is ever too big or too small for Mr. Coates.

## The Ernest Cole Family by Edith Brodback

My Father, Ernest Cole, travelled by train from London, Ontario to Edmonton in the spring of 1906,

deciding to take a homestead, N.E. 60-25-W4, eight miles northwest of where Clyde is today. During that summer he stayed and built a log shack, returning in the fall to get his family and bring them home. The family being at that time, Christina McLean Cole, their oldest son Roy who was seven, me (Edith) five, Fred three, and Ern who was five months old. We arrived at Strathcona station. A neighbor, Bill Smallman, whose homestead joined ours to the west, met us with horses and wagon. We crossed the Saskatchewan River on the ferry and came as far as St. Albert that night. The next day we travelled over a very



The Cole family: Edie, Roy, Fred, Ern, Christine (Mother), Ernie (Dad). 1911.

winding trail and several times had to move trees out of our path and arrived early evening. Another neighbor, Buckley Ferguson took the horse that night to Dave Blythe's barn, as he was the only one who had one. Buckley slept in the straw stack that night.

That next summer we cleared a garden spot and bought a walking plough. Dad worked hauling coal to Edmonton for the next few summers, only coming home every six weeks to bring groceries and mail. In the winter months he worked at Johnny Zaczkowski's saw mill. That first winter Mother took very ill, so it was really a hardship to start a new life this way. Berries and rabbits (which we snared) being our main source of food. We also trapped weasels and sold the pelts.

Those first few years we built a barn, chicken house, acquired some chickens and a cow that kicked. During this time Mother's sister Lizzie and Tom Heywood arrived from Minnesota, taking a homestead east of ours. Soon the homesteaders got together and built Poplar Knoll School, on the Gus Strickhorn place. It was only attended during the summer, our first teacher was Aaron Roddick.

Over the next few years our family grew by five, Ed, Nora, Hazel, Bob and Carl. The homestead took shape and was cleared of some bush for growing hay. The old threshing machine was moved from place to place by horses. It was run by steam and powered by wood. The sheaves were stacked, the machine pulled between the stacks. Ten or twelve men would get together to do the work. The sheaves or bundles were thrown down from the stack, one man would cut the twine with a long handled knife, the carrier would take it along to where the grain would go down a hole that had a grain sack tied to it. Another man would tie the sack and put it in a wagon box. The straw would go out the end and it was tramped to make a stack. Threshing time was a good time of year.

Blueberries and cranberries were very plentiful on our land.



Gramps Ernie Cole. 1927.

As the family grew a new and larger house was built on the north east side of the farm. Gradually our family went their various ways. I worked at several places doing house work. In 1926 I married Ernie Gaston who came from Illinois and homesteaded in the Pibroch district. Our surrounding neighbors were Simon Gower, Calderwoods, Garde, Sheppys, Foslids, Legacy's Campbells, Goodmans and Ducharmes. Roy married and moved to Rossington, is now living in Stony Plain. Fred and his wife Susie were killed in a train accident at a level crossing in Westlock, leaving two children, Dennis and Darlene. Ern passed away July 1969 while living at Pickardville. Ed and Bob both still reside in the district, Nora is at Pickardville, Hazel at Warburg, and Carl at Winterburn.

My husband Ernie passed away in 1960, and later I married Fred Brodback and moved to Freedom district, coming back to live in Westlock in August 1977 after Fred passed away.

## The Collins Family

Mr. Alfred Collins came to Alberta from England in 1912, looking for adventure, and purchased property in Spirit River. Being a carpenter, he found there was little work for him in this area so in 1914 he enlisted in the Canadian Army and went overseas. He served four years in World War I, and in 1918 he married Winifred Hyem. He returned to Canada in November, 1919 with Winifred and daughter Betty, and hoping things would be better, went back to Spirit River. This part of the country being very slow to develop, work was scarce, so in April of 1922 they moved to Westlock.



Alf Collins family. Kathleen, Mr. and Mrs. Collins, Betty. Sitting is John.

Many houses were under construction in Westlock by Mr. A. Neilson who had a carpenter shop across from McCullough lumber yard. Here Alfred worked for Mr. Neilson for a number of years making cupboards, window and door frames. While working at the shop, Alf purchased a lot north of the school and in the off season and in spare time he cleared the lot and built a home for the family. This house is still standing. After the shop closed and everyone was feeling the effects of the depression, he kept himself busy filing saws for twenty-five cents a saw, also doing odd jobs in trade for farm produce. Winifred, while her health was good, was very active in St. Philip's Anglican Church.

Alfred and Winifred had a family of four: Betty (Mrs. G. Renton), Edmonton; Clem, Grande Prairie; Kathleen (Mrs. S. Lowe), Vancouver, deceased June, 1982; John, Prince Rupert.

Alf and Winifred moved from Westlock to Ed-



monton in 1941, for one year, and then went to Vancouver where they remained until their passing, Winifred in November, 1947 and Alfred in October, 1955.

### Ernie and Ruth Colwell

I, Ernie, was born at Altario, Alberta. My parents were William and Olive Colwell. They both came to Alberta from Ontario. I am the eldest of the family, having two brothers and two sisters, all born in that area of Alberta. My brothers, Cecil and Earl, both live in Wetaskiwin. My sister Mavis, lives in Hinton and Arlene in Pibroch District.

In 1937, the area in which we lived became so dry that no crops or gardens could be grown. In October of that year Dad, Mother, and we children moved to Jarvie, leaving all financial land investment behind us. We settled on a farm 2½ miles north of Jarvie where we started to hew out a living, clearing and breaking land again. We children all went to the Jarvie school. I attended to Grade 9, then left to help Dad in clearing and breaking land.



Ernie and Ruth Colwell.

I, Ruth, was born at Dapp, the eldest child of Finlay and Margaret MacLeod. Finlay came from Scotland in the early 1900's and worked in Alberta as a surveyor. Margaret came from Ontario in 1919 to keep house for her brother, Joe Jones in the Poplar Dale District of Dapp. Picnics were a popular way of entertainment for the pioneer families, so in due

time, Finlay met Margaret and they were married at Lacombe, Alberta in 1921. They settled on a homestead 5 miles east of Dapp. I had a brother, Jack, next to me in age who passed away at the age of 2 years. My sister, Irene, lives in Edmonton, and my brother Ken in the Westlock District.

I took my early schooling at Hillman School, and High School at Dapp and Westlock. In 1940 I went to Normal Teaching Training School. In the Fall of 1941, I initiated my teaching career at Thorntonville School, east of Fawcett where I stayed for two years, teaching Grades 1 to 9. From the Fall of 1943 to the Summer of 1946, I taught in Jarvie, a year in the Intermediate grades and two years in the Primary room. This was before the schools were centralized and no buses ran. I had Primary children that came seven miles to school.

It was at Jarvie that I met Ernie, and we were married in 1947. We started married life on the farm, but due to my illness, Doctor bills had to be paid and Ernie left farming for oil field trucking. We again farmed for six years until our son's asthmatic condition forced us to move to Westlock in 1960, where Ernie was employed by Frank Merryweather, the John Deere Agent. He has been employed ever since with John Deere in Edmonton, Athabasca, Barrhead and presently in Westlock for A. Miller Farm Equipment Ltd.

We have four children: Alan, Dennis, Sherill and Elaine. Alan, who married Helen Sagert of Edmonton, teaches Industrial Arts at Hinton. They have two sons, Robert, age 10 and Donald, age 7. All the family are outdoors people; skiing, skating, fishing, hunting, and camping. The boys play hockey.

Dennis, married to Sandra Warner of Edmonton, is a Registered Accountant and partner in a Kitchen Cabinet shop. They live in Edmonton and have two sons, Michael, who is seven years old and Ryan, who is 3. Michael is playing hockey this year. Dennis is a sports fan.

Sherill married Stanley Quantz of Claresholm and they live in Wetaskiwin. Stan is in Radar Air Traffic Control at the Edmonton International Airport. They have two children, Shane is 11 years old and Sabrina, 6 years old. Sherill has hobbies of crocheting and macrame.

Elaine married Norman Tracinski of Edmonton. They live in St. Albert where they own a painting and decorating business. They have one daughter, Celeste, who is 4½ years old. They spend many weekends at their lake property.

We spend a lot of our time in church work at the Nazarene Church here in Westlock. We have just moved back here after having lived elsewhere for 15



years. We would like to make Westlock our retirement town.

### The Colwell Family

Will and Olive Colwell were born in Ontario in the late 1800's. He came to Alberta in 1912 at the ripe old age of 17. She came with her parents to Provost in 1910. They settled on a homestead south of that village, where her father farmed with four horses and a walking plow for a couple of years. Then he got a South African Script from a soldier who did not want to move west. This was a parcel of land which was given to soldiers who fought in the South African war in the 1890's.

Both Will and Olive moved to the Compeer district in the same year but did not meet until several years later. You see, they lived about seven miles apart, which was a long way in those days.



W. and O. M. Colwell, 50th wedding anniversary. L to R: Cecil and Doris Colwell, Stan and Arlene Adair, Ernie and Ruth Colwell and Earl and Joan Colwell.

To make a long story short, they were married in 1920 and farmed for a year on his homestead. Then they purchased a half section a few miles north of the homestead which was better land. They farmed there with varying degrees of success until 1937. The drought, grasshoppers, windstorms and duststorms forced them to seek for a better place. They moved to Jarvie to a farm which only had 17 acres broken so there was plenty of axe work before there was much crop. They lived there until 1966, when they moved to Westlock where they have been ever since.

Bill and Olives family were all born at Compeer. Ernest, the oldest, lives in Westlock now, where he works for the John Deere Agency. He married Ruth

McLeod of Dapp. They have four children, who are all married and have families of their own. There are seven grandchildren.

Cecil, the second son, married Doris Hall of Cochrane and they live in Wetaskiwin. They do not have any family but take an interest in all kids. For many years Cecil coached a Junior hockey team.

Earl, the third son, also lives in Wetaskiwin, He married Joan Parkinson and they have five children. Their children are all grown up and two are married and there are four grandchildren. Earl works for the C.P.R.

Mavis lives in Hinton and has two grown children, neither of whom are married. Mavis was recently married to Elmer Mantai who has a family, some of whom are married, so she became an instant grandmother.

Arlene married Stan Adair and they farm west of Pibroch. They have two grown children who are single, so no grandchildren for them.

### The Conkin Family

by Olive E. Conkin

Our life in Westlock actually began in August 1945.

We had sold our store in Waseca, Saskatchewan, and were looking for a place to settle down. We had been around central Alberta from Red Deer north but none of the places appealed to us. We went back to Edmonton, and through one of the Wholesalers, learned that Don Stanton's "Red and White" Store was for sale. Mr. Stanton was in Edmonton that day, so we met him and he invited us to come out to Westlock the following day.

The next day dawned bright and sunny. It must have been a lucky omen! Before we went to see Mr. Stanton or the store, we drove all around Westlock and were so impressed then, as we are now, with the way everybody seems to take so much pride in their homes and yards, everything was so clean and cared for. We went into the store and talked to Mr. Stanton. He told us a bit about the history of Westlock, his life and years in the store. He also said that he wanted to sell the store to someone whom he thought would fit into Westlock. We are both very glad he chose us. That day Pat and Don closed the deal for the business and their home — no money down or signing of papers — just a handshake!

Pat took over the business on September 10th, 1945. The staff stayed on and included Kay McEachern, Erma Breadner (Lyons) and Bill Peters. Pat lived in the Hotel, owned at that time by Harry Curlett, as was our store building. The rent for the store was Fifty Dollars a month, and he paid Fifty Dollars a month for Board and Room at the Hotel.



We were unable to take possession of our home until the following spring as Carol Stanton was taking her grade XII, and wanted to do so in Westlock.

We settled into our home in April of 1946 and with our two daughters, Maureen and Beverly, began our life in Westlock. We became interested in community activities. We were both interested in the Westlock Fair and for a number of years we served on various committees. Pat held various offices and was the President, then acting President the year that Walter Burchett was President but went to England that summer. We remember the work before, then the anticipation, and finally the satisfaction, after another successful Fair was over. It was a great pleasure to see it grow from year to year, thanks to people like Edgar Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Will Platt, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Baker, Bella Lyons and many others.

In the summer time we had the Golf Course, a very primitive one, to be sure, but thanks to people like "Pop" Wilcock it has developed to what it is today — a source of real pride for Westlock. In the winter time nearly everyone curled in the old Curling rink down by the Creamery. That ice was a true test of a curler's skill, with all its runs and falls. The Mens, the Mixed and the Ladies Bonspiels were so much fun, as were the trips out of town to other Bonspiels. It used to be nothing for seven or eight rinks of men to go to the Edmonton Mens Open Bonspiel.

After the Memorial Hall was erected there was so much needed to finish and equip it that we decided to form a Community League. The women got busy and we put on Fashion Shows, Dances, programmes and concerts to raise money. We were so proud when we got the curtains for the stage.

Pat and I both worked for the Anglican Church and Sunday School. Pat was on the Vestry and I was President of the Anglican Guild and Superintendent of the Sunday School.

Pat was elected to the Town Council in 1948 and served until 1961. During that time the town had many growing pains, including the water and sewer systems. When a fire broke out, everyone used to turn out to try to help. The time the Pool Hall caught fire, in the middle of winter, the fire engine was broken down, but there were two or three Seismic Crews in town and they all turned out with their water trucks to fight the fire. They certainly prevented the fire from spreading down Main Street.

In 1953 Hal Martin, Barney Hughes, Dave Brown, Wilson Sprague, Stan Stienhauer and Pat purchased six acres of land from Dios Smith and had it subdivided. This was the birth of Southview.

We both were active in the Service Clubs of Westlock. Pat in the Kinsmen Club, Elks and Masonic Lodge. I was in the Kinettes and was the first

Honored Royal Lady of the Royal Purple Lodge. I was also President of the Hospital Auxiliary for a number of years.

Our daughters, Maureen and Beverly, both grew up in Westlock and graduated from the Westlock High School. They were interested in school activities, including the Girls Basketball Teams. Maureen is married to Melville McMillan, son of Lloyd and Ida McMillan and they live in Edmonton with their two children, Lara and Brian. Beverly is married to Vaughn Marshall, and they, with their daughter, Jennifer, live in Calgary.

We closed our store in 1961 and Pat went to work for the Department of Highways, Bridge Branch. He retired in 1976. I worked for Alberta Government Telephones, first as Commercial Clerk and part-time Operator, and was Chief Operator prior to the closing of the Westlock Office. At that time I was transferred into Edmonton to work in the Commercial Department. I took early retirement in 1978. We still live in Westlock and spend our winters in Arizona, U.S.A.

### **John William and Lena Cowley**

**submitted by Mabel Rigby**

John and Lena emigrated from England to Toronto in 1904, then moved West gold panning along the Saskatchewan River. As there was a shortage of houses in Edmonton, father and mother set up a tent by the south side of the Saskatchewan River and on December 25th, 1907 I was born. In 1908 we travelled to Pickardville, to homestead, which is eight miles south of Westlock. They made the trip by oxen and hayrack with our belongings. Heelflies bit the oxen and they ran away through the bush with only mother and I on the rack. After that frightening experience mother never again attempted to drive oxen. My father, who had been a painter by trade in the old country, resorted back to painting in order to make a grub stake to homestead. One job took him to Ponoka area where their second daughter Dorcas was born in 1911. Once back in Pickardville we took over the running of the Post Office from the Picard family and ran it until it burned down in 1914 or 1915. My father then moved the family in to Westlock where he helped build the first hotel. I believe it was called the Sheppard Hotel and was run by Bill Hergott. My father went off to war leaving mother, myself and an adopted brother named Dick, and Dorcas all living in Westlock. In 1916 they took a count of all the children in Westlock and with our family, counting Dorcas who was only 4 or 5 we made up enough children to bring a teacher to the area and have a school. The first teacher was a Miss Mahoney.

In 1918 father returned from the war, bought some milk cows and started Westlock's first dairy. My

sister Olive was born in 1919, December 3rd. In 1921 father sold his dairy business to a Dave Armitage and we all moved to the Poplar Knoll area to farm. My youngest sister Gwen was born in 1922, and at the age of three and a half she got pneumonia and died. My mother passed away in 1927 at the age of 44. Father continued to live in the Westlock area earning his living as painter until he passed away in 1953 at age 81. He was very active in the Legion and the Anglican Church.

## **Mr. and Mrs. Valentine Craddock by Mary Rector**

Mr. Valentine (Val) Craddock was born in England, and spent his early years there. When World War I broke out he served as a member of the 51st Battalion for three years. Shortly after the war, Val and a brother decided to moved to Canada. They worked for some time in the coal mines at Cadomin, Alberta just south of Edson. By 1921 Val had grown tired of mining and came to the Pickardville district where he took up farming. He was a good worker and soon proved to be a very good farmer. For years he farmed with his faithful horses but finally changed to a tractor in the 1930's. He was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool for 38 years.

Val was very community minded and for some-time was a member of the Vermillion Springs School Board. He was very active in the F.U.A. and served as President of the Pickardville local for years. On his retirement in 1958 he was made a life member. Val was also President of the Mutual Telephone Company which he worked hard to form. He supported the United Church and helped with the annual picnic held on July 1st.

For a time it seemed Val was doomed to be a bachelor for life but that all changed when he met Della Johnson, a city lady who spent her summer holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Alex Lentz who lived a few miles south of his farm. They were married in 1940 and the city lady soon became a country lady.

Val always had a very good garden and took great pride in growing his beautiful roses.

They were a very kind couple and were always ready to lend a helping hand. Having no children of their own it wasn't long until they had taken more than one young family under their wing. My two children and I were lucky enough to be included in that group and often received treats from their garden, home made butter and jars of delicious sweet buttermilk, etc. Mrs. Craddocks father Mr. Johnson stayed with them for a time and I enjoyed many good visits with him and found him to be a most delightful and humorous old gentleman.

Val's health failed and the farm had to be sold and

they retired in Edmonton in 1958. Val passed away in 1960 at the age of 66 years.

Mrs. Craddock continued to live in her home in Edmonton and then sold it and lived in an apartment for sometime. Today she is a young lady in her late 80's residing in Rose Haven in Camrose.

## **The Crawford's Sojourn in Westlock by N. B. Crawford**

My family moved to Westlock in July, 1926. There were four of us. My Father and Mother (Charles and Anna), my brother, Leo, and myself, Ned. My Father operated an itinerant motion-picture business, and he had decided that Westlock would be a good centre to work from. Besides that, he had found out that the theatre was for lease and that there was living accommodation above the theatre. The theatre, in those days, was situated beside the Beaver Lumber office, on First Street.

Westlock proved to be a good town for the picture-show business and we had a very happy, prosperous time until my Father's untimely death in 1930. Leo and I tried to keep on with the business, but it was just at the beginning of the Depression. Business was very poor, and Leo was only nineteen at the time and I was seventeen years old. We continued living in the theatre until we were able to sell the picture machines, (at a great loss) then we moved into a house.

Mother kept the house together, and Leo and I did any kind of work that was available. Leo was able to get a Projectionist's job in Edson, Alberta, as he still had a license. He was only there a short time when he married a high-school sweetheart from Westlock, Mary Birks. They were doing fine when Leo heard of another, better paying job, in Natal, B.C. He went there, and was in the process of finding a house to rent when he got pneumonia, and died in a Calgary hospital at the young age of twenty-five.

In the meantime, I had started cooking in Clarke's Cafe in Westlock and had got married to a lovely girl who had come to Westlock (with her family) the same year we had. Her name was Olive Watkins and her family was very well known in Westlock.

I worked in the new hotel as the cook there for a few years and also worked under the supervision of Mr. A. Hollingshead, with the Alberta Government Telephone Company, servicing the 'phone lines in and around Westlock. I had taken this job to be able to get out in the fresh air for a change, as I had lost weight with too much inside work, cooking. This proved to be a wise decision, as I felt great and began to put on weight.

These were busy days for Olive and me. We built



a small home for ourselves, and also one for my Mother. We were also blessed with a son.

Mother was only in her home for a short time, then she went to the United States to care for a sister, who was ill at the time. Mother liked it in the States and decided to stay there. She passed away in 1946 in Illinois.

When a lot of my friends were joining the Services in the beginning of the War Years, I decided to join as well. I enlisted in the R.C.A.F. in the spring of 1941 and left Westlock.

When Olive and son Gary, came out to Vancouver for a visit to see me, we decided to move to the coast. We have been here ever since, and now live in Burnaby. We had a daughter in 1945, and now we have five grandchildren. We have many fond memories of our days in Westlock.

### **The Crone Family**

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Crone and family moved from Kitscoty, Alberta to Pibroch in April, 1928 where Jim and his son Bob operated a general store. Later, Jim also became the IHC agent.

In December, 1929 he bought out the IHC from H. G. Curlett and moved to Westlock. He continued in this business until his retirement in 1944.

Bob also worked in the IHC until 1936 when he left to become an IHC salesman in Peace River where he met Orma Giesen. They were married the following year. Bob joined the Army in 1944 and after the war, in 1946, he and Orma settled in Stettler where Bob was a car salesman until his death in 1968. Orma taught school there and is now retired.

Shortly after the move to Westlock, Stuart began working for Andy Erickson and R. A. Brown in their trucking business. In 1932 he and Wick purchased the business, hauling freight to and from Edmonton each day over a dirt road to Clyde Corner and gravel the rest of the distance. In 1934, Wick married Lillian Heywood. They had two children, Norman (deceased in 1961) and Helen (Mrs. George Parker) of Wembley. In 1936, Stuart and Bea Jacob were married.

Later Stuart and Wick expanded their trucking services. Beginning in 1946 they obtained Government Bridge contracts for a number of years and operated a fleet of trucks out of Edmonton. In the early 1950's they opened an office in Calgary where they hauled for Canada Cement throughout southern Alberta. Wick passed away in 1959 and in the early 1960's Stuart sold the Calgary branch to Veteran Transfer Ltd. He continued to operate Crone's Transport in Westlock until 1966 when he sold it to Bill Nilsson and Les Hodge. Len Bruder now owns this trucking service under the name of Westlock Trans-

port. Stuart passed away in 1975. His wife now lives in the Westlock Nursing Home. Wick's widow Lillian, has remarried and lives in Edmonton.

After the move to Westlock, Vera attended the local school and then Edmonton Normal School. She taught in rural schools in this area until 1943 when she married Jim Brooks and moved to Dawson Creek during the time of the construction of the Alaska Highway. They returned to Westlock in 1946 when Jim went into the garage business with his dad and brother. They had 3 children — Ken, a teacher in Vancouver, Murray (deceased in 1968) and Laurel (Mrs. Sid Watson) of Westlock. Vera returned to teaching in 1959 in the Westlock High School and lives now in Westlock.

There are nine great grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Crone — Norman's three, now grown and living in Edmonton, Helen's three in Wembley and Laurel's three at home in Westlock.

Editor's Note:

Bea Crone passed away on May 13, 1983.

### **David Cross**

David Cross rented 182 acres of land located just west of Rossington bridge from Fred Pennock. The land was seeded just in time to be caught in the 1944 flooding of the Pembina River. The tractor and two granaries of crushed grain (pig feed) all went under the water. The pigs were moved to the safety of his father's farm on June 16. The following day the whole farm was covered with the swiftly rising water. The tractor had gone under water in an attempt to move Mr. and Mrs. James Watt Jr. out of their house.

David Cross and Mr. Everett Charlton spent June 18 in an attempt to rescue people who were in danger. The Westlock R.C.M.P. were contacted as well as Member of Parliament Mr. George MacLachlan. The Navy boats arrived from Edmonton later that day as well as Mr. Lindahl's truck with a load of food from his store.

David Cross married Shirley Reed and they lived on the river farm for the next three years. The crops were good and a car load of malt barley was shipped from the rich, fertile land. Later, after a daughter Lorna was born, the family moved to higher ground two miles west and south of Hazel Bluff Church. The Crosses never again wanted to think of the Pembina River overflowing right onto the doorstep.

In the 1950's children Myrna and Douglas were born to complete the family circle.

That same span of years brought a sense of achievement, when a car load of oats was sold for milling oats to the Ogilvie Company in Winnipeg. The land that produced the oats was considered to be of poorest quality.

David Cross has always felt the land is a non-renewable resource, something to be nurtured and cared for on a continuing basis. His thoughts on seed treatment has lead to his involvement with the Seed Cleaning Plant at local and provincial levels.

### Mr. and Mrs. Herb Cross

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Cross came from Beeton, Ontario, to Edmonton in 1918 where they built a house and lived one year. They came to a farm two miles west of Hazel Bluff Church on the south side of the baseline. There was a typical homesteader's shack. The following year they built a large house that had one bedroom, one sitting room, one huge dining room and kitchen, one pantry, summer kitchen plus four bedrooms upstairs.

In the fall of each year a wagon box load of wheat was taken to Westlock Flour Mill to be ground into flour. The staple goods for the year would be purchased at that time. The pantry, being always well stocked, was shared with weary travellers from as far away as Timeu and Fort Assiniboine. Both men and horses stopped to eat and rest. The road south of the Cross's was often impassable from drifting snow or summer mud. Mr. Cross and his trusty Percheron horses were called upon to pull vehicles through. At other times vehicles from the south road were parked in the yard until such time as the sun dried the road. There are many people who could testify to some of the specials of Mrs. Cross's; fried potatoes, finely chopped and browned in homemade butter, freshly baked biscuits, canned raspberries, topped with whipped cream; the cream and butter being the real thing.

During some of the depression years, Mr. Cross converted a 1926 Model T Ford car into a little truck that he used to deliver fresh meat many miles through areas on both sides of the Pembina River. The butchering was done about four nights a week, with the meat being hung in the ice house behind Ellison Tennant's Rossington Store. The meat for delivery was cut in various sizes and placed on white sheets in the covered back of the truck. At times, pages of newspaper were used as wrapping paper — such was the motto of most resourceful pioneers "Do the best with what you had."

In April, 1945 the Cross's moved to Rossington to retire on an acreage consisting of eleven acres, formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kinsella. The Cross's lived in a log house built by the Kinsellas. They built a barn for two Jersey cows that supplied them with milk, cream and butter and some to sell. Spruce trees were planted along the long driveway and each one lived and thrived.

In 1948, during the Pembina River flood, the

Cross's moved to David Cross's for six weeks until the water receded. That same fall they had a house moved on to the David Cross farm. In January Mr. Cross went to the University Hospital for surgery and he remained there for nine weeks. That illness was to change the physical and financial plans for the retirement years. Today we should be thankful for our present day Health Care Plans and benefits enjoyed by senior citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. Cross passed away in 1963, six months apart.

### The Croswells

We, Ernest and Teaney were married in Feb. 1939 and moved to Hondo Alberta. After a fire had completely taken our home, we came to Westlock as we had nothing left but our family, which we thank the Lord for no one was hurt.



Ernest and Teaney Croswell, GEF, Tracy, Joyce and Murva.

We were homesteaders with nothing much, and no insurance, but thanks to Woodward's they let us have credit up to 700 dollars. So that furnished our home. At that time Ernest was a section man going away for lengthy times to work on the gangs in summer trying to make a few extra cents.

I was able to get a job at the Hotel Cafe waiting tables for George and Martha. I worked there for seven months, or that is until I got nerve enough to ask Mr. Lindahl for a job. A week later I went to work there. For many years I worked there, helped stock the new store and worked in the meat department wrapping meat. Norman and Dorothy took me to Edmonton for a one day course teaching me how to wrap meat.

I have many pleasant memories from working at Lindahl's if I was young again that's where I'd want to work if they would have me.

Ernest started to work for the M.D. of Westlock in 1970 and is still with them.

Our family consists of five children: G.E.F. of





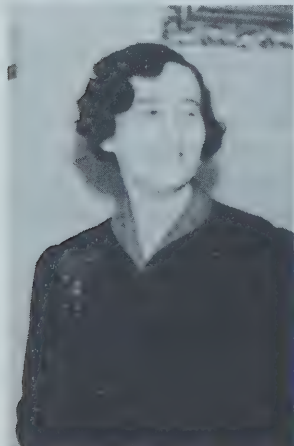
Neville Croswell, son of Ernest and Teany Croswell.

Tofield, Tracy of Pender Island B.C., Murva Stanton of Linaria, Joyce Patry of Westlock and Neville of Westlock. We have at present 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In the year 1966 we bought a home in Eastglen, one of a half a dozen houses on the east side of Highway 44. We are still living there.

### Charlie and Beatrice Cumming by Phyllis Twidt

When the Cumming's, Charlie and Beatrice, came to their homestead in 1922, Highway 44 was non-existent. In fact, just a bush trail existed at that time, which wound its way around swamps and pot-holes. Beatrice tells of how they bumped over stumps along the way as they travelled to their homestead. She had come out from England, where they had all



Beatrice Cumming, 1942.



Charlie Cumming, 1942.

the amenities of gracious living. She had been shown pictures of places which could be purchased for Ten Dollars, where rambling roses climbed over the gates and fences. It was a great disappointment to be brought to a little log shack on a quarter-section just south of where the Hutterite Colony now is located.

One summers day she was out walking and came across some pretty yellow flowers, so she picked some and took them in the house to brighten it up. Later, she found out that they were Sow-Thistle, which has now become such a prolific and undesirable weed.

They stayed on the homestead for a number of years, and were very good neighbors. We had many good times together.

They had no family, and in the early 1930's they moved out to B.C. Charlie joined the armed forces before the second World War broke out, serving as Staff Sergeant in the Third Division, Royal Canadian Army Service Corp. He was five years overseas.

### Jim Curle, Isabella, Jessie and Dick by Jenny Sterling

They were born in Glasgow, Scotland, where their father made models for the Clydebank ship builders, some of which are still on display in art galleries there. There was no future in a big city for young men and the papers at that time were full of descriptions of wonderful opportunities for young men to come to Canada. It was said they could own 160 acres of land for the sum of Ten Dollars simply by



Sam Sollid and James Curle 1950. Homesteaders in Edison settlement in 1905.

proving up. This meant living on the said 160 acres for six months of the year and clearing ten acres for each of the first three years. This was a most inviting offer, so Jim left for Canada with three neighbour boys, George McLachlan, who later became a member of parliament for the area, Duncan Grey and Niel Forbes who lived in the Clyde area. Jim filed on the SE¼-12-26-60-W4, but never stayed with farming. He was a first rate carpenter and remained a carpenter all his life. He moved to Montana, was married and made his home in Helena, Montana for some twenty years or more. He had no family, and later on in life, after much travelling, he settled in Espanola, New Mexico, where he married again and had a family of three, two boys and a girl. He had the distinction of receiving a plaque from the United States Government for his services in building the first atomic bomb.

Isabella and Jessie Curle arrived in Canada in June, 1906 to join their brother Jim on his homestead, bringing with them several pieces of hardwood furniture, including a grandfather clock. Isabella married Jack Edgson the following February. When Jack had heard they were coming he said "I'm going to marry one of those girls." Courtships were short and sweet in those early days; a good wife was a necessity, and they were hard to come by! It was a real contrast to come to this raw country, direct from a lifetime in a large city. Isabella had much to learn. Her great love of flowers, which she had never had a chance to grow in their tenement way of living in Glasgow, found a chance to develop. She had never grown anything but a bean in a flower pot, so found lots of space in her new surroundings. I remember her telling of riding to Morinville in the wagon with Jack, and exclaiming about the beauty of the wild roses, and the patches of silvery-pink plumes of foxtail waving in the wind. Jack stopped the team, climbed down from the wagon and picked some for her, which she carefully carried home. Later, the foxtail became a local pest and she laughingly declared she was accused of introducing it in this area!

Jack and Isabella had three of a family; Frank, who now lives in Pembina Lodge in Westlock, and twins Fanny and Jenny. They made a trip back to Scotland in 1931, visiting her homeland, and on the way back they visited Ontario, his homeland before his death in 1932. Isabella lived until 1952.

Both Jessie and Isabella were lifetime members of the United Farm Women of Alberta. Isabella was on the first executive, and also on the Westlock Fair Board as well as Jack.

Jessie Curle lived her lifetime with her sister Isabella, and brother Dick lived in Victoria, B.C.

## The Village Blacksmith, "Jock" Cuthiell

John Cuthiell, better known as Scotty or Jock, and his brothers Charles, and Robert came from Scotland in 1905. They settled in Galt Ontario for some time. Then Robert decided to move on to Calgary, Alberta and John to Edmonton. Charles stayed in Galt. John had apprenticed as a blacksmith in Scotland, so had good job qualifications. He got work with the government of Alberta and worked in their large blacksmith shop. It was a very busy time as the shop was doing a lot of iron work for the parliament buildings.



Mr. and Mrs. Cuthiell in front of their Clyde residence.

John had made a couple of trips back to Scotland, but went once more for his wife, Annie, and daughter, Janet, who would be about 3 or 4 years old at the time.

John had bought a comfortable home on the Southside and so was all ready for his family. He continued his work at the shop, and did his part in doing iron work for the high level bridge. They also did work for the First Presbyterian church.

During these years more children were added to John and Annie's family.

After the 1918 war, John trained returned men in blacksmithing. This was to help them as they went out to be farmers. But John decided that he would like to go out and start his own blacksmith shop. In 1920 he bought a farm "sight unseen" east of Clyde, Alberta, and found out it was nothing more than a rock pile. However, the family stayed there for about a year. In 1921 he bought a shop in the town of Clyde and started business. He built a house for the family at the south end of town. There the family lived, and the children went to the Clyde school.

There were five children, Janet, John Jr., Margaret, Ann, and Agnes. These were busy years as John sharpened plow shears and shod horses and did other work as well.





"Scottie" Jock Cuthiell shoeing a prize stud in front of his Clyde blacksmith shop.

He used to shoe the big stallions for Bert Nichols, who owned the community stud farm. Work was a bit easier when a trip hammer was installed.

During the depression years, there was not much money, so people brought in butter, flour, eggs, etc. in return for work done.

In these early years the Cuthiell family were good friends with the Catholic priest who lived across the road. Father Koolan often had the family over on Sunday evenings to listen to a Protestant service on the radio.

Mrs. Cuthiell was well known for her baking. She used a stone slab, from the parliament buildings, to roll out her pastry, oat cakes and scones. She also was quite involved in the United Church in Clyde.

Janet operated the switchboard in the small A.G.T. office in Clyde for many years.

John Jr. was in the Air Force during the war, but did not come back to Clyde to work.

After 28 years of blacksmithing in Clyde, from 1921-1949, Mr. Cuthiell Sr. sold his shop to Harry Steger. Mrs. Cuthiell was very ill and needed to be hospitalized. They moved to Edmonton in 1949. Mrs. Cuthiell passed away in February, 1950 and Mr. Cuthiell passed away in April, 1954. The Cuthiell girls all live in Alberta. Margaret Cunningham lives in Grand View extended Care Lodge, Edmonton. Another daughter, Annie Marker, lives near the Royal Alex Hospital where she worked as special diet cook for many years. Agnes Hindle, the youngest daughter, lives in Calgary. John Jr. has retired in B.C.

## Clarence Herbert Daly

by Doreen (Daly) Weaver

My father, Clarence Herbert (Bert, as he was known to all) Daly, came to Canada from England in 1912. He stayed with his brother Sydney who had a farm on the Pembina River, several miles from Westlock. Later he took up a homestead in the Sunny Bank district.

During the first World War he served overseas with the 49th Battalion, Edmonton Regiment and was stationed at Bramshott, England. From there he went to France until the end of the war. While in England he met my mother and they later became engaged. He returned to Canada with the Canadian troops in March, 1919, with his fiancée following in October of that year. She spent several weeks with her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Elliott, who had taken over my father's homestead.

They were married on November 5, 1919 in the Anglican Church in Westlock, and settled in Sunny Bank area where my father had bought a quarter section of land. He farmed this until 1929 when he sold it and moved to Westlock to take over a machinery and garage business. I was then six years old, having been born in 1923, so regrettably I had only one year at the Sunny Bank school. The farm was taken over by the Brockie family.

Mother and Dad remained in Westlock until 1949 when they moved to Kelowna, B.C., where my mother still lives. My father died in 1955.

## Lawyer Davies — Clyde, Alberta

submitted by Norma Storseth

Percy Griffith Davies was born in South Edmonton, Alberta, of Welsh Parentage, in October, 1902. He attended Strathcona High School, and received his B.A. from the University of Alberta in 1925, and his LL.B. in 1927, and his K.C. in 1941. He was determined to become a lawyer, but coming from a family of ten children during Depression years, it was almost an impossible dream.

While attending University, he worked part-time for the Edmonton Exhibition Society, selling advertising and entries for competitions, and during the summer months he worked on the concrete and pick-and-shovel crew at the Dominion Government Grain Elevator, being constructed at that time. His pay was fifty cents per hour, and he walked from the south side of Edmonton, over the High Level Bridge, all the way out to Calder every morning. At that job he was called "Frank", and among his "confreres" was one Jefferson Davis Edwards, who later became one of the founders of the Amber Valley agricultural settlement of black people, near Athabasca, Alberta. Jeff and his colleagues became Mr. Davies' valued



Clyde Office Staff, 1959. L to R: R. G. Davies, Harvey Brinton, Donald Thomas MacArthur, Norma Marie Storseth.



Mr. P. G. Davies closing the office door with finality in the spring of 1983.

clients and ardent political supporters, and encouraged “Frank” to enter politics, which he later did. Subsequently, Mr. Davies taught school near Lacombe for one term, before going back to University.

Mr. Davies completed his articles with lawyer, P. G. Thompson in the Tegler Building, Edmonton, Alberta, and then decided to start a practice in a small town, namely, Clyde, Alberta, because he thought things would be “sparse” in the City, and he might have some hope of survival in the country.

Mr. Davies served the people at Clyde and surrounding areas from 1927 to 1982, in the building on Centre Street, where he commenced and retired, a span of fifty-two years. He bought the old Royal Bank Building in 1927, and started out with a wash basin, cot, an old desk, a secondhand Chevrolet car, and less than two hundred dollars in his pocket.

Things were tough, but because he was in a rural area, his law practice was diversified. As a rural practitioner, his practice of law did not consist of one thing — it was anything! His fees consisted of very little money at the commencement, almost a barter system — meat, poultry, eggs, butter — in exchange for services rendered, and a lot of charity on his part. Mr. Davies helped where he could and asked for pay later, if there was any to be had. There were no retainer fees in those days. Gradually he established a general insurance agency as well, and drove to Boyle and Athabasca, where he stayed at the old McNamara Hotel, and at Athabasca, his office was in the upstairs of a store, where there was an old coal and wood stove, and a box of straw to warm the feet when it was forty below! He managed to buy out that law practice from lawyer P. W. L. Clark, Athabasca, Alberta.

In 1929 Mr. Davies married Lilian Myler from South Edmonton, and their two children, Doris Anita and Trevor Arnold, attended school in Clyde until 1947 when the family residence was moved to Edmonton to be in closer proximity to the University of Alberta. After Doris completed University, she married Glen Jones, son of the late Albert and Martha Jones, also of Clyde, and Glen and Doris have resided in Calgary with their three children for a number of years. Trevor remains in Edmonton, where he is a businessman.

Mr. Davies was a great asset to the community in numerous ways. In his young years he was always actively interested in the projects for the betterment of the community. He was Chairman of the Clyde School Board for a lengthy span, and an active member of the congregation, and on the Board of the Clyde United Church for over twenty years. Because the Village was small, and there was little financial assistance, there was much volunteer work to do. Mr. Davies helped roll a tennis court in 1930, north of the Clyde Curling Rink, and taught many young people to play tennis, as this was one sport in which he excelled, and had won many Championships. I believe this was the only tennis court Clyde ever had. Mr. Davies was a good public speaker, and was always available to MC any public function where he might be called, or give a speech, impromptu or otherwise. Many law students articulated to Mr. Davies, and because of the variety of work, and Mr. Davies' sagaciousness, they received excellent professional training, and hold Mr. Davies in high esteem.

In March, 1932, Mr. Davies was elected to the House of Commons as the Progressive Conservative member for the Athabasca Riding in a by-election, in



the Government of Prime Minister R. B. Bennett. At that time Mr. Davies was the youngest member ever elected to sit in the House of Commons. The constituency did not take in the North West Territories, but at the request of the Prime Minister, Mr. Davies flew with the famous bush pilot, "Wop May", into the Far North to make a study of the mineral resources, and particularly the pitch blend, which was later exported to the United States of America. On one almost fateful flight he and Wop May made a forced landing over Great Bear Lake in a single-seater plane, in a chilling Arctic temperature, but both lived to tell and re-tell the story.

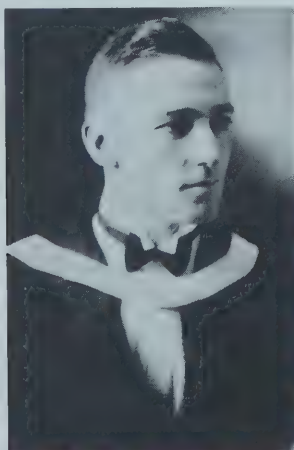
Mr. Davies recalls many humorous incidents from his electioneering campaigns in the old Community Halls, and the homesteads where he called. Particularly, he remembers one hot day when the noon meal consisted of cod fish from a stave barrel, without a lid, and flies for dessert! To this day, he is satisfied he got the vote! Moonshine which was plentiful then, was offered and gratefully declined. Usually the same hosts ended up in the office, later on, as clients, with the RCMP on their heels.

From humble beginnings, Mr. Davies was Captain and Adjutant, University of Alberta Contingent, C.O.T.C., 1925-1930; Secretary-Treasurer, National Federation of Canadian University Students, 1926-39; Organizing Secretary, 2nd Imperial Conference of Students held at the University of Montreal, September, 1929; partner in the law firm of Davies and Chamberlain, until Mr. Davies' retirement, with Lloyd Chester Chamberlain, also from Clyde, Lloyd having completed his articles at the Clyde office; member of the Executive, Alberta School Trustees' Association, 1936-47; member of the Royal Commission on Metropolitan Development of Calgary and Edmonton, 1954-56; Legal Counsel for the Village of Clyde, Municipal District of Westlock No. 92, and County of Athabasca No.

12, for numerous years; Legal Counsel for fifty-one Hutterite Brethren Colonies of the Darius-leut and Lehrer-leut groups for the Province of Alberta; member of the University of Alberta Senate for a number of years, where he saw many graduate, who had been infants in arms at Clyde. He was a director of Canadian Coachways Ltd., from the time it commenced with two old touring cars, until it sold out to Greyhound Bus Lines years later; Director of Western Motor Coaches Ltd.; President and General Manager of Davies-Armstrong Ltd., later Davies-Brinton Limited, which general insurance business was conducted for many years in the same premises as the law office. These name but a few, and, to summarize, we must not forget that he was President of the Clyde Old Boys' Association, and the Pressure Cooker did not get raffled. The old tickets are yellow with age, tattered and torn, but remain on file.

Pages could be written on life in the law office, and names are omitted to protect the "innocent"! There are few who read this article, who cannot identify at some time or other in their life, crossing the threshold of the Clyde Law Office with trepidation and apprehension, with their undisclosed problem almost too heavy to bear. Mr. Davies did not turn anyone away. He must be remembered as a humanitarian dedicated to his profession and his clients. On many days, he hardly had time to eat, and to relax with his daily newspaper at the Clyde Hotel Cafe at mealtime, was next to hopeless. Time for the washroom was a luxury, and his solace was his pipe and a package of Sail tobacco. There were usually people lined up at the front and back doors, and when things get out of hand, the overflow was sent to the Clyde Hotel across the street for coffee or beer. Some clients, incidentally, did not get back that day for their booked appointment! Mr. Davies did not worry about little things — people's problems took precedent. The writer commented one morning, very diplomatically, and trying to be helpful, that Mr. Davies had on one brown oxford and one black one. Mr. Davies was not the least bit concerned, because he said he had no time to change, and his fellowman did not judge him on that count! He sat out the day in the same pair of oxfords! He had great resilience, perseverance, and patience. He was dealing with many homestead people, many illiterate people, many who could not speak the language, and many who came to our country suffering from culture shock. This made it all the more difficult, and at times discouraging. On one occasion when he was preparing a case for divorce court, he asked the client to produce his Marriage Certificate. The client arrived two days later with a Marriage License. Mr. Davies asked him where the Marriage Certificate was, because he first

Mr. P. G. Davies, Graduation, 1927.



had to establish that the gentleman was married before he could file for the divorce. The client held up the Marriage License and commented, "This is it. It hang above the bed"! Seven children had been born to this union, and there was no Marriage Certificate! Right about then all the advice in the Law Library was useless as was Mr. Davies' scholastic knowledge. Few will read this article who do not remember the white envelope with the return as follows: "Return to drawer 6, (and in later years to Box 40), Clyde, Alberta, within 10 days". One recalcitrant debtor told Mr. Davies that when he saw the envelope he threw it in the waste basket unopened anyway, so please save time and postage!

One disgruntled debtor, in response to Mr. Davies' request to, "Please come down and see me?", replied, "I don't have to come down to see you. I know what you look like anyway"! There was nothing left to do with him but send the sheriff.

Mr. Davies always had a dog — any flea-bitten mongrel in the Village that was homeless always found a haven at the Clyde Law Office, and we must pay tribute to the last one, "Orphie", a powerful border collie, who guarded his territory with great loyalty. A few dog hairs stapled into the documents did not seem to detract from the quality of the documents.

Mr. Davies retired on October 29, 1982, on his 80th birthday, and remains on the non-active List of the Law Society of Alberta. He received his fifty-year certificate in 1979, and also received the fifty-year jewel of the Freemasons on June 4th, 1981, having been initiated on June 4th, 1931, in the Westlock Lodge 114.

For many years Mr. Davies has been an antique collector, and in his retirement years enjoys some of the old haunts and auction sales.

For the ones of us who served in the office for many years, the closing of the door was poignant and sad. Part of our lives went with it, but part will always remain — pleasant memories, which outweigh the bad, and the great fulfillment and enrichment in our own lives from working hard to help others. Our greatest prize was the education we received from such a learned man — Percy Griffith Davies, Q.C.

## Fernand de Champlain

Fernand de Champlain and Cora Huot were married on October 30, 1950 in Notre Dame des Victoires Church in Vimy.

The first winter, they lived in Chisholm, Alberta where Fern was hauling lumber for Swanson Lumber Co. In the spring of 1951, they settled on their farm at Vimy, one half mile south of the Vimy campsite.

This quarter of land, NW¼ 16-58-25-W4, had

been a homestead taken by Mr. Albert Proulx in 1906. Mr. Hugh Campbell purchased it from Mr. Proulx some time later, and built the house. In 1931 it was purchased by Euclide Paradis, who in 1934 passed it on to his daughter and son-in-law, Fred and Alice L'Heureux. Mr. L'Heureux built the barn and continued to farm until 1944, when he passed away. In 1946 Mr. Adelard de Champlain became the owner, and in the fall of 1949 he sold the land to his son Fern.

Fernand, the oldest son of Adelard, is a descendant of the Joseph de Champlain family who came from Onwood, Michigan, U.S.A., and who settled



The Fern and Cora DeChamplain family. L to R: Lucille, Fern (father) Yvon, Cora (mother), Jocelyne. Top row: Paul, Raymond and Donald.

in the Legal district in 1902. On October 2, 1904, Adelard, the oldest son of Joseph, was born, and he also raised his family, in the Legal district. Fern was born on September 19, 1928 and attended school in the St. Emile district of Legal.

Cora is the oldest daughter of Denis and Bernadette Huot, and is a descendant of Marie and Edouard Huot from Lac St. Jean, Quebec, who settled in the Morinville district in 1914. In 1917, after her husband's death, Marie Huot settled in the Vimy district with her family. Cora was born on December 5, 1930, and was the first child to be baptized by Rev. Father Francois Koolen, when the priest came to Vimy parish. Cora attended the Boudreau School until it was closed down because of a teacher shortage. She was then bussed to Dunrobin or Vimy School where she graduated.

Fern and Cora were both active members of the Vimy community. Fern, a lover of sports, coached hockey and baseball for many years. In 1970, the "Legal Midgets" won the Northern Alberta Championships. Cora was vice-president of the Christian Ladies on the Diocesan Council as well as president





Fern Dechamplain family — 1973. Bottom row, L to R: Fern, Dorice, Cora and Yvon. Top row: Jocelyne, Raymond, Donald, Paul (deceased) and Lucille.

and secretary for the local council. They both served on the Parish Council of the Vimy Catholic Church.

They raised a family of seven children: Raymond, Donald, Paul (deceased), Jocelyne, Lucille, Yvon and Dorice.

In 1959, as the family was growing, the de Champlains moved to another farm, across the road, that used to be Charles Holder's place. In 1965 they completely renovated the house, but in 1968, as it was not handy to constantly cross the highway to do their everyday chores, they decided to build a new home and move back onto their home place. The remodelled home was sold and moved away.

In 1977 more changes were made. Fern and Cora and the remainder of the family moved to a new home in the town of Legal. Raymond, the oldest son, moved with his family to the family farmstead, and Donald, with his wife, moved to another farmstead west of the Legal village limits. Fern is still an active farmer.

## William Dehnke by son John Dehnke

Our Dad, William Dehnke, was born in Syracuse, New York, to Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Dehnke, and was one of five children. They then moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

When he was twenty-one Dad moved to Lamont, Alberta. While there he helped unload the first carload of buffalo being shipped to Elk Island Park, and these came from a Mr. Pablo in Montana. In 1906, my dad moved to Busby to homestead. The homestead was three miles west of Busby and the closest railway then was on the south side of Edmonton.

My mother, Myrtle Measures, was five years old when she moved from Texas with her parents, Mr.

and Mrs. Henry Measures, and another son, Tom. That was in 1905, and there was no town of Busby. It was called Independence then. They obtained land three and a half miles south of where Busby is now.

Bill and Myrtle married on June 27, 1911 and lived on the farm in a log house. They had four children.

At that time there were no roads in the district, only trails. My dad worked as a grader operator when the roads were put in. About 1921 he worked as a section man on the Northern Alberta Railway. When the rail line to Barrhead went through about 1927, we grew a large garden and Gordon and I had the job of delivering vegetables to the cook at the cook car. We thought that was great as the cook gave us all kinds of goodies to take home.

We kids went to Busby Park School, then to Independence and then back to Busby Park, which was located on the Kelly place, about five and a half miles west of Busby. Lloyd and Inez finished school there, and Gordon and I went to high school at the United Church in Busby.

In those days our main entertainments were house parties and barn dances. We enjoyed both at our place. There was usually a barn dance in the spring when the loft was empty and another in the fall before the feed was put in. Everyone brought lunch and music was supplied by anyone who could play an instrument. We had no money but we did have great fun. From 1930 to 1935 we logged, hiring men at \$20.00 a month, which included their board. Board consisted mostly of beans and potatoes.

Inez married Ed Walker on June 20, 1928. They had five children, twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Ed passed away September 13, 1977 and was buried in Hinton, Alberta. Inez is still living there.

Lloyd married Elva Mitchell from Independence and moved to Barrhead Alberta, then to Winfield, B.C. They decided Busby was a better place to live, so moved back and later moved to Fox Creek, Alberta. They had four children. A daughter, Phyllis, passed away in 1961. There are six grandchildren. Lloyd passed away on September 16, 1981 and is buried at Busby.

I (John) married Dorothy McMillan and moved to Neerlandia where we resided for five years. From there we moved to Winfield, B.C. and raised five children, and we now have six grandchildren.

Minnie Vogt became the wife of Gordon and they lived at Busby for a while then moved to Fort Langley, B.C. They have five children and three grandchildren.

In the fall of 1946, my dad and mother and Dorothy and I with our two boys, moved to Winfield,

B.C. We were told we could grow apples on trees and pick money off trees. We never quite did that, but we have enjoyed life here.

Dad died May 29, 1953 and Mother died February 18, 1966. Both are buried in Kelowna, B.C.

## **The deRappards**

### **contributed by deRappard Family**

Rene deRappard, born in 1900 in Brussels, Belgium; set sail for Canada at the age of 24 years. He and his brother Marcelle settled in Webb, Saskatchewan where he met and married Sophia Biggemann who was born in Balve in West Germany in 1900. Due to the drought of the prairies; Rene, Sophie and their four daughters chose to move to a greener part of Canada. In 1931 they arrived in Alberta in the Pibroch district at the same time as the Dick Morres, Abel Shavers and Jones families. The young men of the families, like Tom Moore, Bernard Shaver and Joe Biggemann drove the family's horses up on horseback, which made a long and eventual trip. To be closer to school the family moved to the Poplar Knoll district in 1933.

Rene later purchased the Ross farm (S.E. Sec. 34-Twp. 60-Range 26-W of 4th) southeast of Pibroch which he farmed till 1937 and it was here that their son George was born in 1935. Many people can probably remember Rene for the first time, as the young fellow with the French accent selling his frozen fish from a sleigh on the main street in Westlock.

After living for a short time in Edmonton, the family returned to the area, this time to Clyde where daughters Helen, Tillie, Lila (Renée) and Yolanda attended school. In 1940 they moved to Westlock at which time Rene took the position as car salesman at the Westlock garage; owned by John Schmidt and Ted Leake. Later he started selling for Doherty's Garage where he was known by many as "Frenchie"; and worked there for many years till his retirement. Rene was always interested in sports; needless to say he became very active in coaching young people in hockey and baseball and later was involved in harness-racing at the Westlock tracks; as well he was Bailiff of Westlock and district.

Organizations could always rely on both Rene and Sophie to "oversee" at the local functions and dances. "Ma deRappard", as she was affectionately known to many a young RCMP Constable, who longed for a home cooked meal would come with other young fellows who also took room and board. For all the years Sophie lived in Westlock she was especially active in bowling and curling and would be called upon to make her home-made soup for the Curling Bonspiels.

Upon retirement in 1971, they took up residence in Campbell River on Vancouver Island; where they were able to enjoy one of their favorite pass-times — fishing.

Rene passed on in June of 1982. At this time Sophie resides in Edmonton where son George and daughters; Tillie Williams, Reneé Kruper and Yolanda Rowley also live, and Helen Baxandall in Campbell River on Vancouver Island.

## **Mike and Mary Derko**

Mike Derko left his native Ukraine to homestead in the New Land. Born on February 27, 1894, he came to Canada in 1914 with two brothers — Nick and Steve — leaving his mother and sister in the Ukraine. Mary Semenchuk, born on March 20, 1900, arrived here in 1906 along with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Semenchuk, two brothers — Mike and Dave — and one sister, Annie. A brother, Nick, and sister, Helen, were later born in Canada. The ocean voyage was long and difficult; two of the Semenchuk children died at sea.

Mike took out a homestead on October 4, 1915, on the SE¼ of 21-58-23-W4 at Waugh for the fee of \$10.00. He (21 years of age) and Mary Semenchuk (aged 16) were married in 1916 and immediately



Mike and Mary Derko, 1955.





Mary Derko sitting on running board.

began clearing land for their home. Their first home was a two-room log house where their first three children were born. In 1925 Mike and Mary bought a quarter of land about three miles away from the homestead where two more children were born.

Later, better land beckoned with more opportunities provided, so they moved to a farm in Vimy in 1928 — NE¼ and N½ of SE¼ of 29-58-25 W4. This was called School Land with no improvements, bounded on the East by Highway #1, Alaska Highway, paved in 1944-45, later changed to Highway #2 when the Trans Canada was built.

Here, two more children were born. Although the farm was covered with bush, they soon cleared the fertile land and enjoyed the friendship of neighbors. During the depression, Mike and Mary never turned away any of the many men, walking the highway and looking for work, who stopped asking for a meal. In those days their place also served as a 'Truck Stop' for many travellers from the North. Mary often served coffee and homemade bread till the wee hours of the morning to cold and hungry passers-by.

Although they had moved some distance from their relatives and old friends, Mike and Mary kept in touch and it was not uncommon for them to load their seven children in their 1924 Model T touring car, often ploughing mud and gumbo, to attend concerts,



Annie, Olga and Jim Derko. 1927.

weddings, church, parties and visits at Waugh. The little ones would sleep on benches while the older ones danced till daylight.

Moving to Vimy was a new and rewarding experience — Not only was the land more fertile, but their



large family was introduced to a new culture when they all learned to speak and take classes in French.

During WW II two sons served in the Army — Nick for one year from May, 1944 to 1945. Joe, from 1943 later going Overseas for two years in Italy and France on Active duty.

When they were no longer able to farm, Mike and Mary retired to Boyle in 1960, where their daughter Joan lived. They lived there until Mike died on September 17, 1965, at the age of 71. Mary stayed on in Boyle for eight years and later moved to Edmonton and after suffering from poor health for many years, died on August 12, 1975, at the age of 75.

Of the union, 38 descendants are now living. The family consists of seven surviving children; one son died as an infant.

Nick of Grassland, married Rosie Postoluk.

Annie of Westlock, married Henry Bernard.

Olga of Edmonton, married Ralph Gardner.

Joe of Nanaimo, BC, was married to Lillian Kowalchuk.

Sophie of Edmonton, married Arden Rytz.

Joan of Boyle, was married to the late Martin McNamara; then to the late Peter Shapka.

Raymond of Edmonton, married to Doris Hlushak.

Mike and Mary Derko succeeded in what they set out to do — to provide a happier, better life in their new land, with more opportunities for their children. For all their effort and sacrifices, we — all of your children — thank and praise you.

## The Fred Deschamp Family

by E. Deschamp

Fred Deschamp came west from Ontario in 1905 on a harvest excursion. He was born in Windsor, Ontario, but was raised in Detroit, just across the river in the U.S.A.

After harvest, he got a job on the railroad pushing a wheelbarrow for \$18.00 a month. He also filed on a homestead, the SW¼-12-59-1-W5. The years were much wetter then. There was a muskeg to the north and a lake to the south.

Dad and Mr. Van Nieuvanhuysen, who lived on the SW¼-9-59-27-W4, travelled by **raft** from their place to the foot of the hill where Mr. Racine lived, on the NW¼-32-58-1-W5. Roger Deshoux lives there now.

After a few wet summers, Dad gave up that place and sold it to the Lambert family (parents of Wilfred and Louise Lambert). He took up another homestead, the SW¼-1-59-1-W5, which was much easier to clear but had very poor soil. The old log house and two log barns, which were built from tamarac logs cut on that quarter, are still standing today. The log



Back row: Mary Deschamps (Beverage), Earle Deschamps, P. W. Pettit, Mrs. Christine Deschamps, Lilly Deschamps. Sitting is Howard and Mr. Fred Deschamps.

house was turned into a blacksmith shop after a lumber house was built. Dad's brother Herman and Pete Pettit helped build the house. Mr. and Mrs. Pettit's second child was born in the old log house. The stork didn't wait until the new house was built! The new baby was named Esther and she is now Mrs. Bill Blauel.

Pete and Herman both took homesteads in the Sunniebend area on the SW¼-24-61-1-W5 and the SE¼-23-61-1-W5.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Deschamps.



Our mother, the late Christina Sutherland, was the first baby born in the Pickardville area, in 1905, and whom Dad was to marry in his later life. They had two girls, Mary and Lily, and three boys. Mary married Bob Beveridge and lives at Highridge. Lily is the wife of Ken McKee, and they make their home in Salmon Arm, B.C. One son, Ernest, passed away in 1935, while still an infant. Howard is farming the home place and Earle (Bud) farms the NW¼-12-59-1-W5.

Fred Deschamp passed away in 1973 and his wife passed away in 1980.

### **The Deshoux Family — Pierre Sr. submitted by J. P. Deshoux**

Pierre Deshoux came to Canada from France in 1911, took up a homestead in Pickardville. Mrs. Deshoux followed later that year with her two small children: Pierre Jr. born in 1909, Marcel born in 1911. They came to this new country hoping to make a better life for themselves but it was a very hard life, no comfort and lots of hardships and labor and cold winters. They built a shack on the homestead, proved it up, then sold it after a couple of years to Delphin Lequay. They bought a quarter from Mr. Constaguay, half a mile from the new parish sight, they then bought Mr. Monter's quarter across from the parish and moved there. Later they bought more land from Bob Wilson, Aimee Valcourt and others who couldn't make a go of it, or didn't like the hard work



Marcel Deshoux, Al Morin and Pete Deshoux.

and cold winters. Mr. Deshoux and Sons worked together and also employed men for they had acquired over the years, two and a half sections of land, also later had acquired a sawmill in Jarvie, then they moved it to Flatbush so a lot of people were employed by them. Pierre Jr. had married and had a growing family, so the land was divided. The brothers still worked together. Mrs. Deshoux passed away in 1957, Marcel in 1958 and Mr. Deshoux Sr. in 1960 so Pierre was left with a large farm and lots of work, but his boys were growing up and with modern machinery they were able to keep on. He and his wife moved to Westlock in November 1976 but continued to farm. In 1981 they retired and sold to their sons who are trying their hand at farming together.

### **The Dohertys**

Harvey and William (Bill) were the second and fourth sons of Elisa (Haire) and Hugh Doherty. There was a family of six. Harvey and Bill were born in Edmonton where their parents operated the East End Dairy in the vicinity of 95 Street and 121 Avenue. This Dairy was the forerunner of the Woodland Dairy.

Harvey attended Norwood School for two years prior to the family moving to a homestead just east of Ranfurly. Bill was not yet school age. This was 1910. Father Hugh with the help of four sons operated a dairy farm. During the winter months for three years Harvey attended the technical school on 108 Avenue and 101 Street in Edmonton where he was enrolled in automotives. He and his older brother Clarence, at a very early age, were the only auto-mechanics in their district.

In 1926 Harvey left the farm and followed brother Clarence to Detroit, Michigan where he was employed by Fischer Bodies. On his return he worked one winter as a mechanic for Merl Thomas in Vegreville, but in the spring built a garage in Lavoy, Alberta with a repair shop and General Motors dealership selling Buick and Pontiac cars. Bill left the farm and was employed here also. The depression set in and the boys were forced to close up shop. They both moved back to Edmonton and got employment at Woodland Dairy. Harvey stayed a few months and then went to work for Frank Wolfe, owner of Edmonton Motors, as a mechanic where he stayed six years.

In 1934 Harvey married Gladys Burkholder of Lavoy, where her parents had farmed for a number of years. Gladys was born in Calgary but at an early age went with her parents to the Okanagan Valley and lived at various points along the lake. Father Tom at last bought an acreage at Gellately's Landing just south of Westbank. Gladys started school in Westbank. Gladys' sister and two brothers were born in





Doherty Garage Staff.

the Valley. The Burkholders returned to Alberta and lived five miles south of Beaumont. In 1916 the Burkholders moved to Lavoy to farm. The family attended Lavoy School; Gladys finishing up high school in Vegreville. She then attended Normal School in Camrose and went to teach in a small rural school south of Vegreville. As the weather became cool that fall Gladys approached the 'Powers that Be', for fuel. Fuel was most obligingly supplied, a load of dry poplar poles and a bucksaw.

Gladys taught in a number of rural schools ending with Hopedale at Haynes east of Lacombe in 1934.

Gladys and Harvey lived five years in Edmonton after they were married. Frank, number one son, was born in Edmonton the year Social Credit came into power in Alberta.

April 15, 1939 Gladys, Harvey, Frank and Harvey's brother Bill Doherty moved to Westlock to set up an automotive repair and gas and oil retail business in a clap board building owned by North Star Oil. This building stood approximately in the vicinity of what is now the Towne Center parking lot. The fact that it had a foot of water in it that morning of April 15, after a heavy wet spring snowfall, didn't seem to deter Harvey and Bill one bit. A mechanic by the name of Bill O'Connor came with the Dohertys. He would have been said today as being disabled as he had a permanently bent knee and he was forced to

walk on his toe; but O'Connor didn't consider this a disability. He pulled his weight and more. Another mechanic by the name of Carrier from Legal joined the forces making a staff of four. Oh yes, and Frank! he lived at the garage, except when he ate and slept. When Gladys went looking for him he could be found under a vehicle with some tools he had purloined from one of the men. Only his eyes were clean. Frank never lost his love of garage business. When he graduated from highschool he joined forces with his Dad to give the business his full time attention, along with flying! He had obtained his private pilot's license by this time.

This above mentioned building had a division



Doherty's Garage bought in 1938 from Clare Downing.



known as 'the shop'. There was a clay floor and a coal and wood heater. It was divided into three of four stalls where repair work was done. The front part known as the office boasted a wooden floor which hadn't been swept since Day One. This office also had a coal and wood stove, a writing desk, if you could find it under the debris, a coat tree, a swivel chair and a heap in the corner known as the repair parts depot. This set up was known as 'Doherty's Garage'.

Mr. Claire Downing had formerly operated from this building and he still held the General Motors Dealership selling Chevrolet, Oldsmobile cars. Doherty's Garage serviced his sales. Harvey eventually took over the Dealership when Mr. Downing moved to Edmonton. The Second World War was raging and new cars were as scarce as hens' teeth.

Doherty's about this time had the agency for Minneapolis Moline Machinery — mind you still operating out of the North Star Building and a small wooden, one time house building about where the Salvation Army thrift store now stands. As time went on Versatile and White Machinery were sold. About 1955 Harvey and Frank bought out Keck-Gonnerman grain thresher separators from a St. Albert company . . . about fifty-two in all. As years passed Doherty's Garage was the sole suppliers, for repair parts of these machines, on the continent. Farmers in the United States who still threshed instead of combining had their repairs sent from Westlock. These included grain, soya beans and even rice farmers. The Amish Mennonites of Shipshoyand, Indiana obtained their thresher parts from Doherty's.

Harvey and Gladys one time visited on their farms.

The four Doherty's and Bill O'Connor lived in a three roomed house on the corner of what is now 106 Street and 98 Avenue. There was a dug out under the kitchen, no cupboards and not even a hook to hang a coat on. We had power; water was drawn from the 'water tower' a tall narrow unpainted building where the firehall now stands. The plumbing? It was plumb outside. Wood and coal were the order of the day. The laundry was accomplished in the living, dining, bedroom. After a few months the Mill House on 107 Street became available and the Doherty's moved there. Now they, at last, had room to house themselves and furniture. Moving became a common occurrence for the Doherty's. The proprietor of Murfits Meat Market would remark to Gladys.

"I hear the Doherty's are moving again."

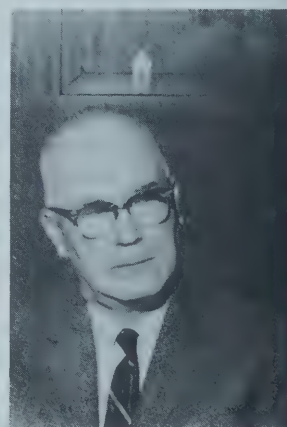
"Oh yes," answered Gladys.

Says Roy Ritz, "I'll tell you it's cheaper to move than to pay rent."

When Harvey hired an unmarried employee,

home he came with him. Understand this 'meant sleep them' and 'eat them' both. 'Eat them' was much more convenient usually than to 'sleep them'. "Oh well, some man would just have to move over, or else poor Frank would again be relegated to a stair landing, hallway or whatever corner in that particular dwelling, at the time, was not jam packed and room was not always the only problem. Could Gladys make the bedding stretch to accommodate another bunk? It was meals at all hours. The men were most understanding and never complained — not in the "management's" hearing. Mentioning meals brings to mind the men who rode the rails. Our house on 107 Street was just across the fence from the Northern Alberta Railroad loading platform. A freight used to go through Westlock about the time the household was getting up and most mornings there was company to breakfast. Men came off the freight asking for something to eat. The most convenient way was to have them sit in at the breakfast table and eat with the employees. There was always enough porridge, milk and brown sugar, toast and coffee. If bacon and eggs didn't stretch that far it couldn't be helped and these poor souls were more than thankful to be filled with hot food and drink. If time permitted before the freight pulled out they gladly split some wood, carried water and emptied ashes.

On D Day, June 6, 1944, son number 2, Joseph Robert was born. He was born on D Day and married in July of Centennial Year to Maryanne Wojcicki of Dapp, oldest daughter of Mary and Frank Wojcicki. She is now Dr. Maryanne Doherty.



Harvey Doherty, 1969.

Happy Day! October, 1945 the Dohertys moved into their very own home on the corner of 106 Street and 99 Avenue. From 1934 to 1945 it had been from pillar to post. With a sigh of relief Gladys informed Harvey that she would only be moved out of here feet first. There was a hardwood floor in the large beamed ceiling living room, what if it needed redecorating



Ted Morris, Esther and Bill Doherty on their 25th wedding anniversary.

and the linoleum in the kitchen was in tatters? It was the most beautiful in Alberta as far as the Dohertys were concerned and what's more it had a cistern with a pump and a real kitchen sink and pull down flour bin. One day in spring of 1960 Harvey announced he would build a new house on that very spot. He had never lived in a new house in his life and he intended to before he died. In October of that year Harvey, Gladys and Joe moved into a spanking new house. Harvey had seventeen years to enjoy it. Frank had married by this time and had his own new house.

Bill Doherty was a bachelor when he came to Westlock. He made his home for five years with Harvey, Gladys and Frank. Bill was always very helpful in the household. He took a hand in raising Frank, being always most patient. Bill was the right hand man in Doherty's machine department. Having had farm experience he was most knowledgeable in machinery. When Bill died in the fall of 1971 many local farmers missed his expert 'know how'. Bill married Esther Calendar of Jarvie. They lived in Westlock a number of years and then moved their family of five to their farm two miles west of Hazel Bluff Church. Esther remarried a few years ago. She and her husband, Jock Miller, still live on the family farm where there is a very large attractive yard, a pretty house with front patio facing on the highway. Both Jock and Esther are avid gardeners. They have a very interesting green house for their own interest and enjoyment.

The Bill Doherty family consists of: Sandra (Mrs. Albert Kondrat) of Red Deer. They have two sons Nathan and Jason, both school age.

David of Edmonton. He has a son David Jr. and a daughter Leah both in high school.

Hazel (Mrs. Wayne Boyd) of Calgary. Hazel has been employed for a number of years with Imperial Oil.

Patricia (Mrs. Donald Nichols) of Edmonton. They have one son Keith. He is in high school and helps out in father Don's auto-body shop.

Virginia (Jean) makes her home with her mother Esther and step-father Jock. She is employed by the Co-op in the cafeteria. She enjoys bowling and is an avid T.V. fan.

By 1950 Harvey had bought the North Star property and proceeded to build a garage on property purchased from Harry C. Curlett. This building was the utmost in luxury, so thought management and staff. There was a spacious shop complete with floor, a means of syphoning off fumes from running motors, a furnace with an automatic coal stoker and a water well. The front of the building boasted a tiled floor with showroom, offices for bookkeeper, secretary, salesman and management. There was a counter for serving customers and a repair parts room with proper bins and shelves. This proved to be too small and a brick addition was erected in 1957. This had a shop for car and truck body repairs and painting as well as a coffee room for the workers. It was soon evident that there had to be more room for the bodyshop and so the third building went up across the lane, facing on 107 Street in 1959. This is still Doherty's Body Shop. Now, the farm machine business needed more room so a steel building went up on Highway 44 and 104 Street. During this expansion in Westlock a branch was opened in Barrhead known as Doherty Motor Sales. This was also a General Motors Dealership selling Pontiac-Buick cars and trucks. Farm machinery was a big part of Doherty Motor Sales. Doherty Motor Sales was managed by Ted Morris, Ken Roy and then Roland Seguin.

In 1969 Joe Doherty took over in Barrhead after graduating from University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and a Masters in Business Management and training with International Business Machines. In 1979 he built a new place of business but sold out the following year to Lynn Bannister. Joe moved to Stony Plain and is a General Motors Dealer for Chevrolet Oldsmobile. He lives in west Edmonton with wife Dr. Maryanne Doherty who teaches at the University of Alberta. Maryanne and Joe have one son Lance Robert, school age. He attends a French Immersion School.

Harvey Doherty passed away July 9, 1977. Frank the next year sold the property on 106 Street and moved into the new building on Highway 44 and 104 Street.

Frank Doherty is president of Doherty's Garage. Frank married Herta Laudenklos of Barrhead. Herta



was the oldest of a family of five. She was employed in Edmonton by Mobil Oil before her marriage. Since coming to Westlock she was secretary to Inspector Earl McDonald. She spent a number of years working for the Westlock School Division in the Elementary, High School and the High School Library. Frank and Herta have two daughters Jaye and Kathleen (Kathy). Jaye after earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing is employed as a district nurse with the Grande Prairie Health Unit. After spending four years with the Bank of Montreal, Kathy decided to reenter University of Alberta and is studying Business.

In the fall of 1956 during a severe teacher shortage Gladys went to teach in the elementary school in Westlock for six weeks. She became so interested and enjoyed the pupils and other teachers so much she stayed fourteen years.

To go back to H. J. Doherty where it all began, Harvey saw his business staff increase from three employees to close to the fifty mark. He was elected to the Alberta Automotive Dealership Council for three terms and during this time was privileged to attend Dealership Council Conventions for Canada in Toronto on more than one occasion.

In 1946, the year Westlock was incorporated as a town, at the urging of Mr. Frank Thibeault Sr. Harvey ran and was elected to Westlock Town Council. He served twenty-eight continuous years on the Council, seven of which as Mayor. He withdrew his name as candidate in October 1974.

During Harvey's time as member of council he saw many changes and the building of many modern facilities. Sewer and water came to Westlock as well as natural gas. He saw the building of the Post Office on 106 Street, a new Town Office across from this with a modern library. There was a new modern Provincial Building, Auxiliary Hospital and Nursing Home, renovations and enlargement of Immaculata Hospital and a new Sports Complex. In 1960 Pembina Lodge was opened. Harvey was chairman of that board from the time of its beginning until he resigned to accept the Mayoralty of Westlock.

A story is told of how the Salvation Army thrift store building, now on 105 Street and Highway 44 came to be used for that purpose. A number of Westlock women started a salvage depot in a small dark basement room of the Memorial Hall. These women were volunteers. They, free of charge supplied good, clean, reclaimed clothing and household articles to people needing some assistance. These hard working women also put together and quilted warm bedding. Often it went to families who had lost their household goods to fire.

Gladys had occasion to go to the depot asking for

winter clothing and boots for school children. She was shocked at the working conditions and let Councillor Doherty know in no uncertain terms what she thought of Westlock Town Council who did not provide such hard working, concerned women with a decent place in which to carry on their worthy efforts. This berating must have hit home because when the Westlock Library vacated the building where the Legion Hall now stands the Salvation Army Thrift store moved in. When the Legion Hall was built the ladies had to move again but this time they took their building with them to 105 Street and Highway 44. Mr. Stanley Coates was instrumental in securing the land and grants to move and renovate the building to its present condition.

November 25, 1971 Harvey Doherty was honoured by Westlock and District as 'Man of the Year'. He couldn't have been happier than he was, with a packed Memorial Hall of friends and relatives. Harvey was a great sports enthusiast. He sponsored a baseball team known as the Westlock Generals. He was one of the sponsors of Westlock Senior hockey team and missed very few of their games. He was known as "Mr. Puck-eye", because he one time got his brow cut open with the puck.

For seventeen years Harvey was baseball commissioner of Amateur baseball. He was the first recipient of the Alberta Amateur Baseball Association Award. On the copper plaque is inscribed 'Amateur Baseball Never Had a Better Friend'.

In 1973 the Town of Westlock and Westlock and District Chamber of Commerce honoured Harvey at a banquet and presented him with a 'Distinguished Citizen's Award'.

Harvey Doherty, H. J. as he became known worked for and boosted Westlock at all times. To see Westlock progress was a deep satisfaction to him.

## **The Robert Donald Family**

There were eleven in the family, all born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. A brother-in-law and his brother went out to Montana, U.S.A. in the late 1800's and went into sheep ranching there. Then more of the family decided to give the U.S.A. a try, as things were not too good in Scotland at that time. Three sisters and five brothers came to Montana, Robert being one of them. He worked two years in Montana, on the ranches during the summer time and in Yellowstone National Park in the winter months. While working in the Park, he met another Scotchman, and they decided to come to Alberta and have a look around, as they had heard that it was possible to get a 160 acre homestead for only Ten Dollars there.

They walked out from Morinville to Clyde, and each took a homestead three miles east of Clyde on

Section 32-59-24-W4. Like all other homesteaders, they had to build a shack to live in, dig a well and get out posts for fencing. This was in the year 1905. Then came the hard winter of 1906-1907, when Robert sent for his family which he had left behind when he went to Montana. There were four boys in the family and they, and their Mother, landed in Edmonton in July of 1907. Dad met us in Edmonton and loaded us into a horse drawn wagon, then headed north to Clyde by way of the Athabasca Trail, which was a two day trip, as conditions were good. Under different conditions, it could have taken much longer, as there were sloughs and mud holes along the trail, in many places. There was no school in those days. Lucky kids! Who likes to go to school, anyway? There were no real roads, just trails through the bush, winding around the sloughs wherever possible.

Dad cleared a garden patch and broke it up so that we could get a garden planted, but frosts were pretty severe in those days and raising a garden was very uncertain. The bush was full of Partridges and in the fall and early winter we children could catch them quite easily with a light pole, about twelve feet long, with a snare on the end. Many people called them "fool hens" because they would sit in a tree with their long necks stretched out which made it quite easy to slip the snare over their heads. With a quick flip of the pole the bird was caught. During the summer months the sloughs were full of wild ducks, and deer were quite plentiful. There were lots of good fish in the lakes at that time, and there were muskrats by the hundreds. In those early days the homesteaders really knew all about mosquitoes for there were literally clouds of them, as well as black flies and sand flies.

Later on, two brothers of our Dad's came up from Montana and took up the other two quarters in the same section that we had filed on. To get Title to their land, each homesteader was required to clear and break about thirty acres. Naturally, this meant they had to have power, so my Dad's two brothers went back to Montana and bought around twenty-five head of horses, and drove them through to Clyde. They had planned on raising horses, but they discovered that slough grass and slough hay was not good for horses feed, so they gave up the idea. Being both single, as was also the friend of my Father's who had homesteaded at the same time, they left the district after proving up their land and getting the Titles. One got a job on the street railway in Edmonton and stayed on that job until he retired. The other worked at various jobs and finally went to B.C. where he passed away. Father said many times, if he had not been tied down with a family, and "broke" to boot, he would have been tempted to pull up stakes and get

out. However, little by little, he built up a herd of cattle, milked a few cows, raised some pigs and chickens and cleared a few more acres of land. Each season there were bush fires to fight, and sometimes homes were burned.

In 1909 a school was built, which was in operation for three or four months in the summer. Our first teacher was a Miss Daly from the Clover Bar district.

There was a big flood in 1914, when it rained for forty days and forty nights, and the only way to get around was by boat, in the area where we lived. By this time the school ran for about eight months of the year.

For several years, before the railroad reached Clyde, Robert Donald drove the stagecoach from Morinville to Clyde, for a Mr. William Jamieson, who had the contract. Around 1909 or 1910, rumors got around that the railway was going to extend its line to Athabasca from Morinville. This brought homesteaders into the country by droves and every available quarter in the district was filed on. The railroad did come to Clyde in 1911.

In 1914 World War I broke out and the two oldest boys enlisted. They went Overseas with the 202 Sportsmen Battalion. The oldest one was killed in action, but the other returned to Canada when peace was declared.

In 1919 the 'flu' epidemic was raging like a fire out of control. It took its toll on some of the neighbors. Up to this time there was no Doctor closer than Morinville, and (if he was called) by the time he arrived, generally one of two things would have happened. Either the patient had recovered, or had died. Things were certainly different in those days. No one ran to a doctor with a little bellyache or to a dentist with a toothache!

By 1919, most of the soldiers were back from the war, and the slogan had been that "nothing was too good for them". "Nothing" was what most of them got! The winter of 1919-20 was a hard one, which started in October and lasted through May, with about five feet of snow on the level that winter. Toward spring, feed was very scarce. Green feed bundles were selling for 25 to 30 cents each, and hay, shipped in from Ontario, was eighty to one hundred dollars a ton. In 1921 the prices of everything plunged to the bottom. I saw good teams of horses, with their harness, sell for Thirty-five Dollars!

During the Twenties most of the time was taken up with clearing and breaking more land. By the time the "Hungry Thirties" came along, we had secured a section of land and had quite a few milk cows. We delivered milk to the village of Clyde for a few years, then we decided to raise Registered Hereford cattle. We started with two females from Homer Campbell



and two females and a bull from Hunter Brothers of Fort McLeod, Alberta. In the forties we added to the Herefords and built up quite a good herd, so we had a sale and sold off the milk cows. The Herefords did well for us as there were not very many registered animals in the country at that time. We sold three quarters of our land to Henry Lusson, which included the original homestead. Mr. Lusson did quite well on the place we sold him. He built up a good herd of Charolais cattle, and also raised a large family.

George Donald, my brother, then took over the Charles Jeselon farm. He married Julliette Jeselon in 1928, and they had one daughter, Agnes, who is now Agnes McLean, and they reside on the original Charles Jeselon farm, with their family of four. George passed away in 1976.

I, Andrew Donald, bought the original William Jamieson farm in 1950 and lived there for many years. Our youngest brother bought the Bon Ton Store in Clyde in 1946 and ran it until 1959, when he sold the store and moved to Edmonton, where he still lives.

Robert Donald, our father, died in 1945 at the age of 76, and mother passed away in 1950 at the age of 80. I married Mary McKee of Edmonton in 1950, and we lived on the farm until 1979 when we sold the farm to Dr. Kerby and moved to Westlock, where we now reside.

This now takes us to the 1980's, the years of High inflation. However, the "bigboys" at Ottawa say they have the cure: "Keep the interest rates high!" So far it is working out as effectively as giving a patient large doses of Epsom Salts to cure diarrhea.

## Albert and Goldie Dubois

by Goldie Dubois

I, Goldie Dubois, left my birthplace of Nova Scotia (Bluenose Country) in 1925, with my parents Amelia and William Shunamon, and my brother Morton, and sister Eva with her husband and daughter. We travelled by train to Swift Current, Saskatchewan. I lived there until I came to Alberta in 1937, when I married Albert Dubois.

Albert and I lived on a farm near Clive until 1942 when we moved with our three children; Bill, Irene and Diane, to the Pickardville district. We farmed there for four years and then moved to the Vimy area on the NW¼-21-58-25-W4, where the kids later attended the local four-room school called Dunrobin.

Our house was big, but not finished inside at all — much to my surprise! It had an old gas barrel for a furnace in the basement. It sure didn't put out much heat. Times were such that lumber, plasterboard, etc., were not available, being the first year after



The Dubois family. Bill, Irene holding Joyce, Dianne, June, Bob and Paul. July, 1955.

World War II. Eventually we were able to get them, so we were started on our way farming again.

The land was very good, but we ran short of water for our cattle until we had a long overdue dugout made. No sooner had we finished it than the Department of Highways came along and made another one.

The first years we lived there were quite tough. We farmed a section then, so of course, we needed help. Hired men weren't interested in working the long hours, so guess who had to do it? Many other farm wives were in the same boat. There were lots of fun jobs, like working in the fields, milking cows, feeding pigs, doing the laundry, gardening, not to mention looking after the house and kids!

In the fall my husband and I put in long hours taking our crop off with a pull-type combine, wagons and trailers. At night I shovelled grain and more grain. This was before hydraulic hoists and elevators.

During the years 1948-1954, we had four more children; June, Bob, Paul and Joyce, all born in Westlock Immaculata Hospital.

Joyce, and her husband, Milton Sterling, bought the farm in 1973, two years after Albert died. They farm and live there with their four children; Lori, Jason, Shawn and Evan. Milton also runs an electrical firm in Edmonton.

Paul, a construction superintendent, married Wendy Montpetit from Legal. They have two sons; Brian and Neil, and a daughter, Jacqueline. They live on an acreage near Bon Accord.

Bob, who is a welder, married Marie Richert from Barrhead. They have a son, Branden and twin girls, Tina and Tara and live in Morinville.

June is a teacher and is married to Raymond

Laforce from Legal. Ray works in sales in World Telecommunications. They lived in Edmonton for three years, in Montreal for eleven years and are presently in Belgium. They have two sons, Marc and Michel.

Diane married Aubrey Sterling (Milton's oldest brother, I might add) and they live in Edmonton with their three children, Tim, Kevin and Barbara. Aubrey is an electrician and carpenter by trade.

Irene married another gentleman from Legal, Norm DeChamplain. They have one girl, Donna, and three boys, Danny, Dennis and Darren. Irene teaches in the Castledowns area in the city, and Norman is sales manager for Bennett and Emmott.

Our oldest son, Bill, married a nurse he met while he was in the Air Force, Fran Breton. They were married in Quebec in 1961 and moved back to Alberta in 1963, upon serving his six years in the forces. He ran a mobile feed mill service for a while before trying out farming with his Dad. They had six children, David, Peter, Janet, Michael, Andrew and Jennifer. Bill was killed in a plane crash in 1973. Fran now works and lives in Westlock with her children.

One of the highlights of our farming days was when Albert won the Provincial Malting Barley contest in the early 1950's.

In 1974, I moved to an apartment near Londonderry, where I now still reside.

## **The Duke of Sutherland's Farms and The Tainshes**

**by Margaret Gibson**

We came to Canada in June of 1910, and got off the train at Strathmore about 3 a.m., tired, cross and sleepy, at least I was. Dad worked for the C.P.R. Irrigation Department until early in 1913, when he saw an ad in the newspaper for a farm manager. So in March we came to Clyde.

The Duke of Sutherland had bought the land a few years before.

It was made up of Section 17 and 13, East half of 21, East half of 19, and North East quarter of 18 which had been homesteaded by an Ed Sullivan. It had a house and some log granaries on it. The main buildings were on Section 17 which had a large barn, machine shed, chicken house and hog barn, a feed shed and granary, an office and bunk house and dairy, but no dwelling.

Two of the quarters on 15 had houses on them. So we lived in one of them the first year, then in the Sullivan house for a year. Dad then moved one of the houses from 15 to Cromarty, as it was then known, and added a kitchen and back porch. This was our home for some years.

Our family consisted of our parents, Gordon and

Elizabeth Tainsh, children Annie, Wylie, myself, and Bob. Another brother, Lawrence, was born in 1916.

Meanwhile we went to school — the first two years to Violet Hill very close in 1913, but after our move in 1914, a 3½ mile hike. Sometimes in the summer following the torrential rains of June, it was easier to get through parts of the road in bare feet than in shoes. Hay Creek was at that time nearly half a mile wide, and too deep for horses. So when the mail for Hay Creek Post Office was dropped off the train Vimy or Dunrobin as it then was called, it had to be brought up by boat. The following winter we went to school at Clover Valley. As neither district could keep a teacher a full term, Dad placed a building on Cromarty for use as a school, so that between the two districts they could pay a teacher the full term. We usually boarded the teacher also.

In the summer of 1917, the Company (it was now known as the Sutherland and Canadian Land Company) transferred Dad to their property at Brooks. He only stayed until the spring when we moved back to Clyde to a quarter-section Dad had bought. Three years later the Company asked him to go to one of their holdings at Strathmore B.C. to straighten out some problems there. Dad went out to B.C. alone, and the rest of us stayed on the farm. After two years, Dad was asked to take over Cromarty again. So back we went.

Meantime, Annie had married John Sharp, and gone back to the Prairies to live. I was married in the spring of 1927, and moved two miles down the road to the farm where I still live. My Mother passed away in November of that year. In 1928 Cromarty was rented, and Dad went to Brooks to take over the Company's office there. His own land was sold to Stuart M. MacLachlan. Shortly after this Wylie went to Calgary where he worked for the J. C. Case Company for many years. He married but had no family. He passed away in 1981 shortly before his 81st birthday. Annie stayed on the Prairie until her health failed, and she spent her last years in hospital in Grande Prairie where her son lived. When Laurie finished school, he went north to McMurray and worked on the Lake boats until he enlisted in the Air Force. After the War was over he returned to Edmonton. He married in 1951, and spent several years at Beaton River working for the D. O. T. He then returned to Calgary and went to work for Goliath Oil and Gas at Lodgepole. He passed away there in 1960. his wife, Margaret, and family returned to Calgary where they still live.

Bob went into the grain business with the U. G. G., his last elevator being Clyde where he stayed until he retired. From then, until he was 75, he was



secretary of the Village of Clyde. He and his wife, Marrion, still live in Clyde. Their eldest son, Ian lives in Vancouver, and the younger son, Colin, in Edmonton. Dad returned to Cromarty in 1937, and stayed until the Company decided to sell the properties. About 1945 he sold the land as follows: Home section to Chappell Brothers; the Sullivan ¼ to John Meston; the ½ of 19 to Lyall McMillan; 21 to Con Johnson; the West ½ of 15 to Don MacLachlan; and the East ½ to Everett McMillan.

He had married again while at Brooks, and retired to Edmonton where he passed away in 1951.

I still live on the farm I came to in 1927. My husband Irving Gibson, passed away in 1956. My son, Brian lives with me, and works at the U. F. A. Co-op in Westlock. My younger son, Terry, worked for the D. O. T. for four years in the North, then went to California where he studied electrical engineering. He married Beth, a California girl in 1964, and in 1971 they went to Saudi Arabia where he works in the oil business.

This is the story of another Scottish family which came to Alberta, knuckled in, and played its part in the development of the Province.

### **The Carl Durstling Family by Dorothy Durstling**

Carl and Rose Durstling came from Leduc and settled on their farm in the Pickardville area in 1929. They were accompanied by Carl's son, Bill, and Rose's four children from a previous marriage; Robert, Ervin, Ruth and Millie Tober. Five more children were born after they moved onto the farm; Hertha, Alfred, Stanley, Douglas and Helen. The entire family attended the Elk Park School until its closure.

Although times were difficult through the early years the family worked together, and Carl and Rose remained on the farm until their retirement early in 1958, when they moved into Westlock. Their son, Alfred, and his wife, Loretta, continued to carry on the farm for a few years then sold the farm and also moved into Westlock.

Bill and his wife, Dorothy had nine children and reside in Westlock.

Robert died in 1947 after a lengthy and serious illness.

Ervin and his wife, Elsie had two children and are farming in the Westlock area.

Ruth and her husband, Jack Mayo are living in Edmonton. They had six children.

Miller was widowed in 1957, then moved to Kelowna, B.C. where he presently resides. Six sons were born to his marriage.

Hertha has one daughter, and lives in the Pickardville area.

Alfred and his wife, Loretta have five children and live in Westlock.

Stanley, his wife Cathy and their three daughters make their home in Edmonton.

Douglas and his wife, Louise and their two boys are living in Westlock.

Helen is married to Dueh Marsh, and they live in the Bowden area with their two children.

After Carl passed away in July of 1958, Rose continued to live in Westlock. Now in her 84th year, she still enjoys reasonably good health and is a resident of Pembina Lodge.

### **The William Durstling Family by Dorothy Durstling**

Bill's father, Carl Durstling and his mother. Hans-eena, brother Elmer and Grandmother Henrietta Durstling, came to Canada in 1905. Coming from Minnesota, they settled in the Leduc area, where five more children were born; Jim, Annie, Teena, Bill (Willie) and Elsie. Elsie was two-and-a-half months old and Bill two years when their mother died of the 'flu in 1918. With the help of his mother and the older children, Carl managed very well. His sister-in-law took Elsie and cared for her.



Bill Durstling in cutter and Smoky and Fancy, their driving team. 1940.

In 1929 Carl married Rose Tober and with her four children; Robert, Ervin, Ruth and Millie, his own two youngest, Teena and Bill (who was then fourteen) they came to the Pickardville area. Five children were born of this union; Hertha (Locke), Alfred, Stanley, Douglas and Helen (Marsh).

Bill struck out on his own when he was twenty-one, in 1937, and came to work around Westlock. He has fond memories of the time he spent with the Bella Lyons family, Dick Adkins, Tom Golder and the Wannops. When we started going together, he had a pair of snappy little grey horses that he drove on the cutter in winter, with lovely musical bells on the harness. They went like the wind on either cutter or buggy.

On August 10, 1940, he and I (Dorothy Goodman) were married in St. Philip's Anglican Church, and so began our life "on a shoe string." That is the way it would seem by today's standards, but what you don't have you don't miss, so we always figured we were well off, with plenty of food, healthy children and lots of fun.

We raised nine children; Delmer, Ronald, Gerald, Joyce, Loreen, Brian, Mavis, Karen and Dorie. They were all born at home except Karen and Dorie.



V E Day, May 8, 1945. Delmer, Gerald and Ronald Durstling.

We first lived on the Pickardville Road where the Cormiers now live. In April of 1941 we moved to one half mile south of Protestant Hill. The first three boys were born in that house, but it has since burned down.

In the spring of 1945 we moved to the Pennock farm, four miles south and a half mile east of Edison corner. Our school was Clover Valley, but by the time Delmer started the children were going to Pickardville. He and Ron both went to Pickardville for a short while, then our district was consolidated with Westlock. The days of the school bus were here to stay, and the roads had to be fixed accordingly.

We lived on a hill and had Hillcrest Farm painted on the barn. We are pleased to see that the people who eventually bought the place have kept it nicely painted. Our closest neighbors were Henry Mehden,

Petrins, Russell Sterlings and Fortiers. The farm across the road belonged to Paul Sabourin, and our children still call him "Uncle Paul." His sister and her husband, Rita and Gordon Cannard, with their small son, Allen, lived there for a while, and as our families are much the same age, we have remained good friends ever since.

Bill threshed with Oscar Chevrier. Our house was small and the three older children were usually hungry, so I put them under the table at meal times; their stomachs got full and they were in no ones way. Mr. Chevrier thought that was a wonderful idea!

Time flew by and the children got older and became interested in sports and track meets. We always seemed to have extra kids around, and along with our five older ones, a ball game could soon get started in the summer and in winter they played hockey, skated, went on hay rides, and often went behind the hay rack or sleigh on skis, used a tow rope. We had the Annual Sunday School Picnic at our place for several years. After gorging ourselves on all the food, we played ball. We were usually stiff for a week afterwards, but it was fun. John White has some good slides of those times. We also had a really good youth group at church in which the children were involved. Ron and Gerald belonged to the Clovercrest Saddle Club. George Blair and Len Sterling were two of the leaders and we met at the Sterlings. The boys had some pretty good horses. I see Rene Shank still races "Donk." They were invited to take part in the Barrhead Stampede one year and it was a good experience for them. Gerald had designed the two flags, with a horses's head in the centre, clover leaves on each corner, with Clover Crest Saddle Club written around the sides. He and Ron led the Parade on their horses Sheba and Silver.



L to R, back row: Loreen and Joyce Durstling. Claudette and Jeanette Jolivet and Betty Allen. Front: Rosalie and Clement Jolivet.



We always had very good gardens on the farm and I remember one fall when Rita came to get some corn. We each had new babies, but here we were, lugging these bags of corn up to the house. The men were working in the fields, so there was no one to help us. We've often thought about it since.

In the fall of 1961 we moved into Westlock. Ron was in Grade XII and Gerald in Grade XI. Ruth and Loreen both got jobs after school at the Senior Citizens Lodge and were much in demand as babysitters. After all, anyone who had that many brothers and sisters should know something about taking care of them! I was working at the Lodge then, as was also Elsie Berry, and what a wonderful Christmas Concert we helped to put on for the residents. They are part of our "Happy Memories."

On Christmas night of our first Christmas in Westlock, Ken and Cliff Pankonin, Dennis Wolfe, Steve Marko, Allen Cannard and David and Leonard Sterling dropped in. Our nephew, Blain McCallum was there, and so were Ralph and Hazel, Jack and Irene and Art, so we heralded in the first of what became an annual Christmas party at the Durstlings, which were to continue until we moved to Swan Hills in 1973.

On May 8, 1962, Dorie was born. Bill had started working for Andy Van, and I am sure Dorie was three months old before she realized her father was around! He would be gone before she woke up and would be asleep by the time he came home. We all loved and spoiled her, and without my older daughters, who helped immensely, I don't know how I would have managed.

Delmer worked in the elevator in Westlock with George Blair when we first came to Westlock, but his big love was (and still is) the bush. He went to work in the bush and became a good sawyer, and also a good "faller". He is very good on almost any machine that is used to make roads and spent three years at the Big Horn Dam, until it was completed. He married Jean Hadley in December 1966, and they have two daughters. He and Jean are divorced, but Lynel and Danyel live with their Dad at Swan Hills where he maintains oil well roads.

Ron graduated in 1963. He was one of the football players who helped win the "Little Grey Cup" for Westlock. He went on to work for Calgary Power and now has his own crew, out of Sherwood Park. He married Phyllis McConaghy of Busby in October, 1968, and they have twins, Trevor and Tracey, and also Debbie.

Gerald had a bad time with his tonsils in the fall of 1962, and had to drop out of school in the spring, Mr. Gault hired him to work with the bees and he now has his own Apiary at Sunniebend. While they may not

be "the light of his life" they are definitely "the sugar in his tea!" He and Rose have one daughter, Susan.

Joyce graduated in 1965 and went on to train at Essondale, B.C. as a psychiatric nurse. She married Larry Hamer in December of 1967, and as he is a Navy man, they have done considerable moving. They are now at Aldergrove and have three children, Dawn, Chad and Cynthia.

Loreen graduated in 1966 and worked at the Auxiliary Hospital until she married "Scotty" Paterson on April 1, 1967. They lived in Clyde for several years, then went to Strathmore as Scotty worked for the Grand Trunk Line, now the Nova Corporation. They were transferred to Spruce Grove last year (1981). They have two children, Christine and Fraser, and Loreen is now a fitness instructor in Stony Plain.

In 1965 we bought a big, old, rambling house just north of the Auction Mart in Westlock, which was just right for our large family. Gerald and his two summer helpers boarded with us and there was a constant coming and going of both boys and girls. My mother once remarked that it was like Grand Central Station, but we were used to it and we have never regretted having our door open to all their friends.

Bill was always busy, so I used to take the five girls and sometimes their friends out to the family dances at Sunniebend, during the spring and summer of 1963 and 1964.

When Brian was born, Rita Cannard weighed him in at four-and-a-half pounds, on Christmas Eve, 1949. Until he was twelve years old he was fairly short and pudgy, but he suddenly decided to grow and shot up to six feet five inches. He and David Berry used to buy some cans of beans, climb on their bikes and head for Island Lake most weekends in summer. They slept under the spruce trees and the stars. He graduated in 1969 and that winter trained under Art Anhorn in the grain elevator. By the time he and Kathy McIntyre got married, in July of 1971, he had his own elevator with a house provided at Vimy. They later moved to Legal, and still make their home there, but Brian has worked in the shop for Gilson Trucking for several years now. Their children are Leah and Colleen.

Mavis married Brian Johnstone in July, 1969, and they have three children; Joey, Valerie and William. Brian works on pipeline construction, so they move around a lot. Right now they are living at Wimborne, east of Bowden, a very lovely part of our province.

In July, 1973, we moved to Swan Hills and were very happy up there. Dorie was seven at the time and to her Swan Hills is "home."

Karen chose not to come with us, but to stay at

Clearbrook, B.C. with Joyce and Larry, and take her last two grades there. The last year, Larry was transferred to Victoria, but they found Karen a small apartment where she lived, on a tight budget. I went out there for her graduation and was very proud to see her receive a lovely award for "the student who did the most for her school in 1975." She returned to Alberta and went to the University for two years, then chose to stay with Alberta Government Telephones. She married Larry McKenzie of Enderby, B.C. on January 9, 1979. They now live at Camrose and have a daughter, Melissa.

We enjoyed our eight years in Swan Hills. Bill worked in the shop for Braucht Construction. I learned to knit and to roller skate. I organized the first World Day of Prayer there, and it still continues. I became involved with the library and was on the Board for three years. I also began writing Junior Fiction Book reviews for Alberta Culture, and still do.

There was babysitting for people wanting to go on holiday when their children were in school; a much needed service up there as we were quite isolated.

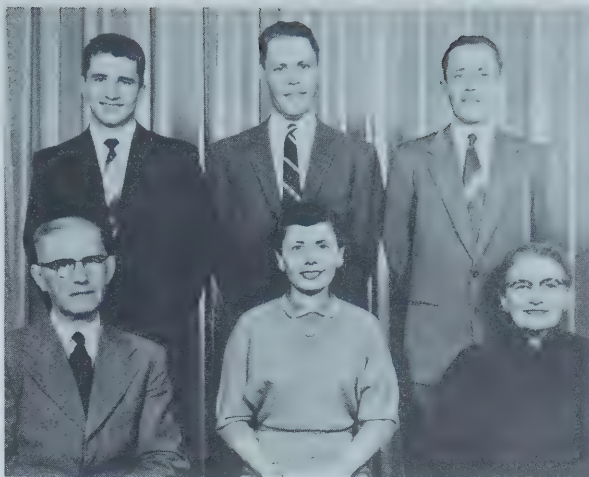
I was pianist for our own Anglican Church services and often helped out at both the United and the Catholic churches. We had a good Craft Guild, to which I belonged, and we had two, and sometimes three, craft sales a year. I also wrote a column "Library Knick Knacks" for the Grizzly Gazette.

Dorie did very well at school, and won the "Best Supporting Actress" award in 1977. She loved drama and music, but music has won out. She went by bus to Barrhead High School, a round trip of 138 miles each day, for two years. The final year she boarded there. She won the Music Award and a scholarship worth \$300.00 in 1980. She's now at Capalino College, North Vancouver. Last year she took her first year of Bachelor of Music and this year begins a two-year course in Music Therapy. She will work with the retarded, injured, deaf, and people who cannot talk; a very interesting program.

Bill retired in 1981, and here we are back in the old home. So many old friends are gone, but that is life, and so we carry on.

### Frank and Annie Dusseault Family

My dad, Frank Dusseault, took over his brother's (Arthur) homestead, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -4-59-25-W4, in the year 1917. In 1919 he married Annie L'Abbe and they had a family of three boys and one girl; Emile, Louis, Marguerite and Frankie. They farmed one quarter of land and also kept some livestock and chickens. I can recall, in those days, Mother always made her own home-made soap. Dad found time to do carpenter



Frank Dusseault family.

work, as this was his trade. He spent many years in Fort McMurray employed by his sister Mary, who owned and operated the Franklin Hotel.

Dad sold the farm to R. Gouin in the year 1947, and moved to the city where he continued to work as a carpenter. He worked for a few years at Dawson City, where he suffered his first heart attack. When he regained his health, he did all the repair work for the St. Alphonse Parish, as he was living just across the street from the church.

In the year 1968, mother suffered a fatal heart attack, and Dad passed away in 1969, after years of failing health.

We all reside in the city of Edmonton, except Frankie, who lives in the State of California.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dusseault. 1945.



## George Dusseault

I was born March 10, 1956 at the Immaculata Hospital in Westlock, and was raised on my father's (John) farm in the Vimy area.

I started school in Vimy, then went to Legal, finishing my education at the Westlock High School, where I received my diploma.

After graduation, I worked on the farm most of the time, and drove truck when times got slow.

I bought an interest in the family farm and feed hauling business in 1980.

I was married on June 6, 1981, to Joanne Arts, daughter of Jack and Corry Arts of Westlock. On September 18, 1982 we were blessed with our first child, Jason Micheal.

## The Jack and Mary Dusseault Family by Jack Dusseault

I, Jack, am the eldest son of Joseph G. Dusseault. I was born in 1923 and raised on the family farm 1½ miles west of Vimy.

In 1948 I was employed by the Municipal District of Morinville to operate the first motor grader purchased by the Municipality, which position I held for



Jack Dusseault snow plowing, 1950.



Jacques and Mary Dusseault with Denise, Maurice, Leo and David.

three years. At that time, there were only 12 miles of new road with gravel in the division, which was approximately 8 miles by 22 miles.

In 1948 we purchased the NE ¼ 18-58-25-W4 and the NW¼-17-58-25-W4 from Fred and Willie Morasse. I moved there in 1953 and married Mary Krauskopf in 1954. We are still living on this land and have a mixed farming operation.

We raised four children, Denise, Maurice, Leo and David. Maurice is married to Maureen Madson and they have a son, Dustin.

## John Dusseault Family

John Dusseault was born in the Vimy district in May of 1930. He attended the Dunrobin School at Vimy until 1944, after which he went to St. John's College for four years. On completion of his studies there, he came home to help with the operation of the family farm.

In 1952 John was married to Clemence Bernard, also of Vimy, and they raised a family of six children.

Their first son, Roland, who graduated from Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario, earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is now a teacher there.

George graduated from High School in Westlock, and later married Joanne Arts, a Westlock girl,



John Dusseault family. L to R: Joey, George, John with Rochelle, Clemence with Michelle, Paul and Roland.



The John Dusseault family. L to R: George, Paul, Clemence, John and Roland. Front: Joey, Rochelle and Michelle.

whose parents farm just outside of Westlock. George and Joanne have a son, Jason. George is now a partner in the operation of the family farm.

Paul, after completing his education in Westlock, went on to the University of Alberta, where he obtained his Mechanical Engineering degree. He is now employed with Canadian Badger.

Joey is finishing high school this year (1983) and plans to go into accounting.

The last two children were twin girls, Michelle and Rochelle, who are now attending high school in Westlock.

### The Joseph G. and Aurore Dusseault Family

The Mose Dusseault, Sr. family came to the Edmonton district from Ontario in the year 1905. Mr.

and Mrs. Mose (Amanda) Dusseault had a family of five boys and six girls: Paul, Arthur, Mose Jr., Frank, Joseph, Josephine, Mary, Victorine, Eugenie, Ida and Lea of which Aunt Lea is the only surviving member.

Joseph Dusseault, the youngest son, was educated in the Edmonton Separate Schools and graduated, as a teacher, in 1917 from the Camrose Normal School. Dad was an outstanding athlete as Mother still has the numerous medals and trophies that were awarded to him. In the 1914-15 season he played hockey with the Edmonton Hustlers and that year, they won the Alberta International Championship.



The Dusseault family.

Dad played hockey in the Big Four Hockey League in the days of seven men hockey. He also had a year or two in professional hockey ranks, having played with the Vancouver Lions and a Calgary team. Between the years 1920 and 1930 he played hockey with Westlock and was able to partake in their 25th hockey reunion on April 2nd, 1948. In the year 1914, the Edmonton Bulletin's Baseball team were the Spalding Champions and Dad was a player on that team.

Prior to farming in the Vimy District, Dad taught school at Daysland, Vimy and Riviere Qui Barre. In the year 1920, Dad rented the S.E. ¼ of 4-59-25-W4th from his father and after his Dad passed away he purchased the land from his mother. Dad was married to Aurore Lachance in the year 1922 and they



had a family of two boys and four girls. The oldest son, Jacques, farms in the Vimy district while Jean, the youngest, farms and resides on the home place. Frances lives in the Morinville area while Amanda makes her home in the State of Indiana. Germaine resides in the City of Edmonton. In 1946 Paulette was born but her life was short lived as a result of an accident in the year 1969 that took her life and that of her husband's leaving, surviving, a son Michel.

Dad specialized in soil conservation and for two consecutive years won awards sponsored by the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce. In 1949, the Joseph G. Dusseault family was one of the winners of the first Master Farm Family awards which was started by the late Hon. David Ure, then Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, extending to honour Alberta farmers who as a family showed outstanding achievements on the farm and the community.



Mr. Dusseault.

Dad also took an active part in municipal administration. In the years 1933 to 1937 he was Councillor and Reeve for the Municipal District of Hazelwood with offices located in Pickardville. Those were the years when many farmers had to settle their tax accounts, seed grain advances, etc., by putting time on road work in the days when horses and fresnoes were utilized as a means of road building. Roadside brush cutting, by axe, was also another manner of settling accounts. When Hazelwood was dissolved, the Municipal District of Morinville was formed and in 1943 Dad became a Councillor and later a Reeve

on that Council. He served for many years until his defeat and shortly afterwards, the boundaries were changed and his place of residence was then under the jurisdiction of the Municipal District of Westlock. He was a member of that Council for many years. In the year 1965, when the new Administration building for the Municipal District of Westlock was officially opened, Mother had the honour of cutting the ribbon at the opening, in recognition for the many years that Dad had served on that Council. One thing I'll always recall, Dad knew all about elections as in all the years he served as a Councillor he never once went in by acclamation. There was always someone there to oppose him and in case anyone should wonder, he won many more than he lost. When on Council, Dad was elected for two consecutive terms as a Director of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties. When the Sturgeon School Division was first established on January 1st, 1939, Dad was one of the first trustees to serve on that Board.

Dad also took an active part in politics. He was unsuccessful in three attempts to win a Provincial seat for the C.C.F. party.

Dad went out of his way many times as he was always willing to assist anyone who required help. He was keenly interested in farming operations and was an active member of the Farmers' Union of Alberta. He was delegated to Ottawa in 1956 as the farmers' representative.

Dad was an accomplished speaker.

In September, 1962 he succumbed to cancer at the age of 64. I recall him saying: "If there's a way to beat this one, I will", but it was in vain. His widow has resided in the City of Edmonton since 1964.

### **Moses (Moise) Dusseault Family**

Moses Dusseault and family came west to Edmonton in 1904 from Ontario.

In 1910 they came north and took up a homestead one mile west and five and a half miles north of what is now known as "Clyde Junction." This was the NW¼ 33-60-25-W4, which was situated in what was known as the "Edison" community at that time.

The following year, 1911, Moses married Clara LeBeau, and they farmed in the area until 1945, when Mr. Dusseault retired.

Mr. Dusseault was Reeve of the District of Pibroch, and later, of the Municipal District of Westlock, which position he held for more than twenty years. He was first elected to Council in 1926. He and Clara have one daughter, Marie.

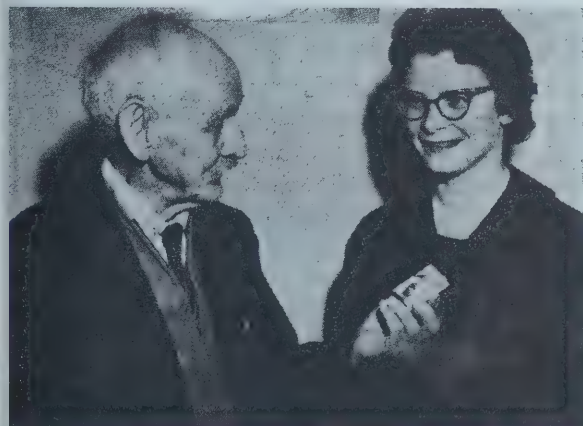
### **John Robert Dyer and Myrtle Dyer**

Rob Dyer bought land in 1917 from Mr. Thomas.

Robert and Myrtle (nee Chellson) were married March 19, 1919, and returned to their homestead in Sunnybank District. Two children were born to them — Melba — June 1, 1920, and Clayton — February 15, 1925. Rob farmed and raised prize pigs. The threshing crews thoroughly enjoyed meals prepared by Myrtle. The Dyer family was very active in community affairs. Robert and Myrtle retired and moved to Edmonton in 1961.



Clayton Dyer on Nancy, Melba standing.



"Pop" Lawrence Trophy Presentation — Maxine Langille, one of Alberta's outstanding women sprinters, was presented with the A. R. "Pop" Lawrence Trophy as the top woman athlete in Alberta Track and Field. Shown making the presentation to the Westlock girl at Alberta College Friday afternoon is Pop Lawrence, honorary president of the Alberta branch, Amateur Athletic Union of Canada. Miss Langille represented Alberta on the Legion Sports Training Plan team which received training in Toronto.

### Melba Alice Dyer

Melba Dyer married James Clair Langille on July 10, 1941. Clair owned and operated "J. C. Langille Trucking". Clair was a Town Councillor and a member of the Board of Stewards for the Westlock United

Church. Melba and Clair were blessed with their daughters — Maxine, Lynn and Elaine. Maxine put "Westlock" in the headlines when she was declared "Woman Athlete of Alberta 1959". Maxine was top sprinter and competed in such events as the Pan American Games in Saskatoon and the Olympic Trials in Winnipeg. Lynn became a nurse and trained at Archer Memorial Hospital in Lamont. Elaine played clarinet with the Westlock Concert Band and attended Expo '67 as a member.

Maxine married Fred Primeau of Dapp; they have two daughters, Bonnie and Jody, and reside in Red Deer. Lynn married Bob Thompson of Busby; has one son Keith, and one daughter Susan, and reside in Calgary. Elaine married Bernie Semotiuk of Holden and has a son Trevor and a daughter Keri Anne, and resides in Devon.

### Ed Hatfield

Ed Hatfield worked for Robert and Myrtle Dyer in the 1920's. While employed, he built a log shack across the creek. He was a great one for playing tricks. One day when he was out stooking he said, "Hold out your hand, Melba, I have something for you." Guess what — Five Naked Little Baby Mice!!! One day Rob and Ed Hatfield went for a load of lumber up to Pete Soul's Mill and the horses ran away causing Ed to break his collar bone. He could not work any more and moved into Edmonton.

### Luther Victor and Mabel Hannah Langille

Luther and Mabel moved from Pibroch to Westlock in 1936. They opened the "Second Hand Store" which was located down by the railroad station. They had four sons; Rae who married Frida Emsland; Clair who married Melba Dyer; Laurie who married Kitty Langford; Allan who married Grace Garrison. Luther and Mabel were very active in the Westlock United Church.

Luther passed away March 8, 1952, and Mabel passed away November 21, 1981, at the age of 96 years.

### Clayton Robert Dyer

Clayton Dyer married Loreen Beamish of Jarvie on November 16, 1949. Clayton is still farming the home place. They were blessed with two daughters, Sandra and Debby. Debby was very active in the Westlock Figure Skating Club where she taught for a few years. Sandra resides in Barrhead and Debby resides in Calgary where she works for Pembina Pipe Line. Loreen has been very active on the Westlock Fair Board for years and Clayton is a faithful fan for the local hockey team.



## Dyky Family

by Ed Dyky

Edmund Dyky, born in Rama, Sask. August 17, 1936. He went to school in Sask. and worked in several parts of Canada until 1959, when he moved to Regina, Sask. He met Margaret Dow who was born in Regina, June 7, 1942. After a long courtship they were married in Calgary, Alta. on Feb. 17, 1962. Ed worked as a salesman for Tip Top Tire Patches and was transferred to Westlock in 1970. We bought the late Joe Renaud's house and that is where we live today.

Westlock has become home to us and our family, although our children were all born in Calgary, we moved to Westlock before they started school.

Charmaine, born in May 1964 went to school 1 year in Calgary. She started Grade 2 at St. Mary School in Westlock, graduated in the summer of 1982. Charmaine was a Brownie and a Girl Guide and received the Highest Honor a Girl Guide can earn, in 1979 she was presented with the Canada Cord. After graduation Charmaine attended 1 year at Hollingshead Westerveld College in Calgary to obtain a degree in Accounting. She is now working in Westlock.

Christine (Tina) was born in Calgary Aug. 17, 1965 and attended from grade 1-9 at St. Mary in Westlock, her grade 10-12 was at Westlock Senior High. She graduated the summer of 1983 and in Sept. will attend Yellowhead Regional Educational Consortium in Hinton for a year and the Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton to obtain a degree in Early Childhood Services. Tina was also a Brownie and a Girl Guide receiving the second highest honor a guide could receive, The All Round Cord.

Cynthia (Cyndy) was born Aug. 18, 1966 in Calgary and attended school from grade 1-9 at St. Mary in Westlock and her High School at Westlock Senior High. Cyndy is in Grade 12 and when she graduates she has plans of a Legal Secretary Course in Edmonton.

Robert was born Jan. 28, 1969 in Calgary and is now in Grade 9 at Westlock St. Mary School. Robert was in Cubs and now works part time at the Esso. It is still too early to say what field he will go into upon completing grade 12.

Ed and Margaret have been very busy in the Community and really enjoy Westlock. Both have been very active in Cubs, Brownies, and Guides. Many hours of volunteer work for the A.C.T. on the Search for Talent Program and the Telerama for many years helping raise money for the "Handicapped". In the summer 1982 we entered a new field, Foster Parent, and find it a real joy with the one fault being

the attachment, so we are now in the process of adopting.

Ed is currently running his own business **Ed Dyky Sales Ltd.** a newly established business in Westlock. Selling Specialty Advertising and promotional items to Businesses in Northern Alberta and some parts of Sask. Our plans are to retire in Westlock hopefully many years down the road.

## History of John L. Easton

by Clara Brown

John and Ruber Easton came to the Springfield District from "The Dells" Washington. They bought the Telesphore L'Abbe homestead quarter S.E. ¼ 11-58-26-W4. This quarter had been previously owned by J. Lavoie, Napoleon Lavoie and Millar who in turn sold to John Easton. The Easton's had one son Lawrence who attended Springfield School. Over the years the Eastons acquired more land. They were good neighbors. They sold to Bert Buchholtz in 1948 or 1949. They then returned to "The Dell's" where they spent many more years. They are all deceased at this time of writing.

## The Edgson Family

submitted by Jenny Sterling

The Charles Edgson family originated from Thessalon, Ontario. Charles and his wife Fanny had two daughters, Annie and Lena; four sons: John, Charlie, Arthur and Frank. The three older boys had gone out west and worked in lumber camps in Oregon and British Columbia and finally landed in Edmonton with the desire and intention of taking up homestead land and making a home for the family. The soil was so deep and so rich, in contrast to the thin layer over the rocks in Thessalon, they were indeed optimistic. At the land office in Edmonton they met and talked with pioneers like themselves,



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edgson and family. Back row, L to R: Frank, Charles, Arthur, Lena. Front row: Charles Sr., Jack, Fanny.

listened to the stories of many who had already made their choices. They wanted somewhere which had not yet been settled, where they might get the pick of the crop or what they thought was the best land. An Indian told them that some fifty miles north there was land not yet taken with not too many trees. They inquired at the land office and found it would be open to settlement in the next four months. The Indian had called it "Little Grand Prairie".

So Charlie, accompanied by Neil Forbes, one of four Scotch boys, Jim Curle, George MacLachlan, and Duncan Gray with whom they had become acquainted, decided to go and see for themselves. This they did with many difficulties along the way; found the Little Grand Prairie area they had heard about, liked what they saw, and returned to Edmonton to report to the others.

In the mean time Jack and Arthur had gathered together the necessities, a team of oxen, "Dick and Darby", a wagon, axes, scythes, hand rakes, blankets, a cook stove and tarpaulin, flour and syrup for pancakes. In the spring of 1902 they headed north in search of their homesteads. They could have gone a longer way much easier by the Landing Trail, a freighting road to Athabasca landing as far as Mrs. Watt's stopping place and then turned west some twenty miles. However they preferred to go the shorter route to St. Albert and on to Morinville and Egg Lake through heavy bush and swamp. Here they had to cut their own trail, build corduroy roads over wet holes, fought with mosquitoes and finally after twelve days struggle reached their promised land.



Jack and Isabella Edgson taken in the old log house after the fire. She is sitting in the rocking chair which was the only thing saved from the fire.

Lots of peavine and vetch and no stones and plenty wild game looked most inviting. They stayed and chose S.E. quarter of Section 2, T60, R26, W of the 4th, for the home site in Charles Edgson Sr.'s name. Jack took the S.W. corner and Frank the N.W. quarter. Charles and Arthur took quarters near by.

Paddy Armstrong another Ontario man travelled with them and took up a homestead 36,59,26,W4. They built his homestead shack first and all lived in it while they built the family home. It was one storey high, 18 feet wide and 35 feet long. It was built from fire killed logs and chinked with clay. The house was facing now what is Highway #18. They had in mind it would be a family home as well as a stopping house for settlers coming in, which it was for many years, a welcome haven to many weary families in their search for a new home in a new country. The house, a barn, and a hen house were built from the fire killed logs that were quite near by. I remember the hen house was only five logs high, they were so large. By Christmas the home was ready. My Dad Jack was the cook, as he had worked in a bake shop back east it came easy for him, so they were well fed until the family arrived the following March. Annie, who was married by then stayed on in Ontario, but Father, Charles Sr., his wife Fanny and Lena seventeen and Frank the youngest of the boys packed their possessions; seven cows, one bull, two ponies, "Tip and Nat", two dogs and two cats and came to Edmonton. They were met by Charlie who was the freighter for the family. Jack had been appointed land guide whose duty it was to show prospective settlers available homestead land and record them. Mrs. Edgson was truly a pioneer, satisfied with what was provided for and ready to make a home for her family, and ready and willing to encourage others. This she did so very well, welcoming many new settlers, feeding and sheltering them, and filling them with hope for a happy future in this land she was sure would develop if any one was willing to work and stay with it.

Jim Curle, one of the Scottish boys, had his sisters join him in 1906 from Glasgow, Scotland. Jack married Isabella in February 1907; Courtships were short and sweet in those days, a good wife was necessary and short in supply. Everyone in the district at the time, some 45, were invited to the first wedding in the district. He baked and decorated the cake himself with home made tools.

In January of 1907 Charles Edgson Sr. after a short illness died of a kidney ailment, while still in his fifties but considered an old man in those days. They had built a new frame house by this time, and a week after his death the house was destroyed by fire, supposedly started from a cat upsetting the Christmas tree decorations on a hot stove pipe, claiming the life





The Edgson twins Jenny (left) and Fanny. Born February 20, 1911.

of Mrs. Edgson. She had gone back in the flaming building to get the deeds to the land. They made a human chain and managed to get her out but she died the next day. Her loss was greatly felt by the community as she was fondly considered the "Mother of the Settlement". They were the first two burials in the Dungannon cemetery.

Jack and Isabella had one son Frank who farmed the home place and later rented it while he worked for the C.C.I.L. in Westlock. Twin daughters Fanny who married George Sterling and lives in Westlock, and



Frank Edgson, 12 years old.

Jenny who married Leonard Sterling and still lives on my Dad's homestead. Jessie Curle lived her lifetime with her sister Isabella. Arthur married Vina Breadner and lived east of the home place nearer Clyde. Arthur was well known as a square dance caller and floor manager for miles around. They had a family of six; Elmer, Charlie, Lloyd, Carmen, Mona and Ila.

Charlie moved to the Peace River country pioneering once again, and farmed extensively at Dunvegan.

Frank married Bella Beatt. They farmed on their homestead till his early death in 1925. They had three children: Gordon, Cleave and Madge.

Lena married Maynard Gibson and farmed at Hay Creek, south of Clyde and later on moved to the Peace River country living out their lives at Fairview. They had a family of five; Hughie, Myra, Mervin, Joe and Ralph.

So the Edgson family lived out their lives happy with the fulfilment of their dreams of what this country, if pioneered, could and would develop into. Even they could not imagine how rapidly would be the changes that did take place over a span of 80 years. We who are their survivors should ever be grateful for their efforts and sacrifices.

### Arthur Edgson Story submitted by Jenny Sterling from information received from Son Lloyd

Arthur Edgson was born in Lucknow, Ontario, and later moved to Thessalen, Ontario, with the family who farmed along Basswood Lake. He came



Work bee raising Art Edgson's house.

west with his brothers Jack and Charlie in search of better land and settled in the new settlement of Edison with the family. He later homesteaded on the quarter NE S32 T59 R26 W4, the farm now occupied by Dr. S. Jamieson. He married Lavine Breadner in 1910 and they raised a family of six children. He was perhaps best known as a square dance caller. He had a jovial manner and a good voice, pepping up many an evening for the early settlers. For many years later he was in great demand as floor manager at country dances.

His oldest son Elmer and wife Nel lived in Nanaimo for years and are now retired at Nanoose, British Columbia. They have four daughters, Winnie, Barbara, Sherrin and Rebecca.



Wedding photo of Arthur and Vina Edgson.

Charlie and wife Sue live in Prince George, British Columbia. They have three children, Connie, Robert and Norman.

Lloyd and wife Bernie live at Shawnigan Lake, British Columbia. They have a family of six, George, Hazel, Ruby, Arthur, Daniel and Reginald.

Carman (deceased) and wife Jean lived in Grande Prairie where he was Postmaster for years. They had two children, Jim and Margaret.

Mona and husband George live in Vancouver. They have two children, Dolores and Roddy.

Isla and her husband live in California.

Lavina or Vina as she was better known in later years married John Steadman and lived in Vancouver for years. He passed away some years back and Vina lives in Cowichan Lodge, Duncan, British Columbia. She will celebrate her 90th birthday in October 1983.

Lloyd and Bernie visited the old farm in Thessalon, Ontario, finding the old farm with some of the buildings. It is now a summer resort along beautiful Basswood Lake.

## Charlie Edgson by Jenny Sterling

Charlie Edgson was the oldest of the four Edgson boys who came from Thessalon, Ontario to the district in 1902. Charlie was cook at lumber camps around about at that time. He filed on the NW¼ 34-59-26-W4 but his desire to pioneer further north finally took over, and he left the district in 1913 and moved along with many others in search of new frontiers, to the Peace River country, settling in the Waterhole, Dunvegan area. His farm overlooked the mighty Peace, beautiful country, where he farmed extensively with horses most of the years. In 1919 he harvested wheat from one thousand acres at \$2.00 a bushel.



Charlie Edgson.

He loved animals and had a way with horses especially. It was told that on the day of his sale, he was too ill to stand out among the crowd of people attending but wanted to be there while the auctioneer sold his favorite team. He stood on the porch of his home, and when the team came out with no harness on, he drove the team with the use of his cane to which they responded so favorably.

His health gave way in later years and he farmed with the help of his nephews, gradually turning toward the use of power machinery. He died in 1938 at the home of his sister, Lena, at Clyde, and was buried with the rest of the family in Dunvegan cemetery. His



property was willed to his sister's son, Hugh Gibson, who had been totally crippled with infantile paralysis as a child and had spent his entire life in a wheel chair. He had a brilliant mind and management ability which Charlie admired, and after his death, Hugh and his parents moved to the Peace River area and took over the farm.

## Frank and Bella Edgson

by Jenny Sterling with information supplied by son Cleave Edgson of Fairview, Alberta

Frank was the youngest of four Edgson boys who moved west from Thessalon, Ontario. Jack, Charlie and Arthur found good farming land, in 1902, approximately fifty miles north west of Edmonton. Frank came out the following year, travelling in the stock car looking after the animals they were bringing out to their new farming venture in Alberta. There were seven cows, one bull, two ponies (Nip and Nat), two dogs and two cats. Frank was a youth of about seventeen or eighteen at the time, and managed to feed and water the stock despite a delay in Winnipeg due to making train connections. He arrived in Edmonton several days after his mother and father and younger sister, Lena, who had come straight through in a passenger train.



Frank and Bella Edgson with baby Gordon.

Frank located himself on a quarter section of land, the NW ¼-2-60-26-W4. He met and married Bella Beatt. Cleave, their son, recalls that they each drove a freight wagon in the Fraser River Valley area of B.C. for a short time, but returned to the farm in Alberta, where they settled down to farming and raising their family of three, Gordon, Cleave and Madge. Another little girl died in infancy.

They bought a new Ford car in 1919. Frank's health was not good and he passed away at the early age of forty years.

Gordon, his oldest son, also passed away early in

life, suffering from a similar heart ailment. Gordon left his wife Jean, and one son, Frank, who now live in B.C.

Madge married Jack Brotherton. They spent several years on a missionary assignment in Africa but now reside in Florida. They have three sons; John, married, and lives in Ontario, Allan is married and lives in Edmonton and James, who is married and living in Florida.



Frank and Bella Edgson children: L to R: Gordon, Madge, Cleave.

Cleave and his wife, Frances, live in the Fairview area of the Peace River country. Cleave moved there in 1930 and has farmed extensively there for fifty two years. They have a family of six.

Gaylene is married and lives in Seattle.

Charlotte and her husband, Tom, moved to the Marshall Islands with their family.

Lance lives at Williams Lake where he is engaged in the logging business.

Keith and his family live in Dunvegan.

Grant lives in Los Angeles, where he was recently married. All of Cleave's family of twenty-two were able to be together for the occasion.

Mark is still at home with his folks.

Frank and Bella and their descendants have each carved a very respectable niche in their various parts of the world and have made useful contributions to their communities.

## O. W. Elliott Family

Orlando William Elliott was born in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1893, and came to the Busby District with his parents and two brothers in 1903. He and his brothers worked on the homestead with their father during the summer and attended school in the Advance School during the winter.

At the age of 14 Orlando had acquired all the education that the local school system had to offer.

He continued to work on the homestead with his brothers, and also worked with his father on construction in Edmonton during the winter. His first job was during the building of the Royal Alex Hospital where he carried hods of brick up ladders. His father said, "there wasn't much argument in him at the end of the day after carrying a few ton of brick straight up."



Emily, Jack and Orlando Elliott.

At the outbreak of the First Great War he enlisted in the 49th Battalion, an Edmonton Regiment. He served overseas until the end of the war and was awarded the Military Medal and Bar, decorations he prized highly.

On his return to Canada the name Orlando had been dropped and he was from then on known as Bill Elliott to everyone except his mother.

In 1920 he married Sissy Emily May whose family had emigrated from England in 1905 and homesteaded on the SE 1-58-27-W4th. They were married by Rev. James Kelly who was a pioneer churchman in the Independence area.

Following the war Bill worked for a short time in Eaton's Warehouse in Edmonton and also as a brakeman on the railway. He eventually settled back in Busby farming a quarter section he bought just east of the hamlet. About 1928 he became Postmaster in Busby, a position he held for twenty four years.

A year after the outbreak of the second Great War he was back in uniform as an Instructor with his old rank of Company Sergeant Major.

When the war was over he was back in Busby taking charge of the Post Office which his wife had looked after during his absence.



William Elliott family of Busby. Taken in 1955. Bob, Bill, Jack, Florence, Emily and Shirley.

In the mid fifties Bill Elliott was appointed Police Magistrate with his office centered in Westlock. He held court in Barrhead, Athabasca, Morinville, Redwater and Westlock. In 1958 the Busby holdings were disposed of and Bill and Emily moved to Westlock. In 1963 Bill died in an auto accident when returning home from Court sessions in Redwater. Emily is currently a resident in the Westlock Nursing Home.

Family —

William John (Jack) — born 1924, Married Lola Wolfe of High Prairie, Employed as a Station Agent with the Northern Alberta Railways 1942-1966. Currently employed by the Municipal District of Westlock as Secretary-Treasurer.

Robert Charles — Born 1927, Married Beryl MacAulay of Hythe. Obtained his PhD in Agricultural Science and was employed in the Federal Government Agricultural Research Station at Beaverlodge, Alberta. Retired in 1982 and entered politics. Currently, he is a member of the Alberta Legislature representing the Grande Prairie Constituency.

Florence Amy May — Born 1930, Employed by the Royal Bank in Edmonton and Vancouver. Passed away in 1958.

Shirly Ellen — Born 1939, Married Karl Sarlin of Sudbury, Ont. Now resident in Barrie, Ont., where, she and her husband operate a restaurant and have a bakery franchise.

## William A. Elliott Family

by Jack Elliott

William Alexander Solen Elliott was born December 9, 1875 in Berwick, Nova Scotia. When he



was eleven years old the family moved to Lynn, Massachusetts. To augment the family income he worked on a dairy farm in the mornings and attended school on a very irregular basis in the afternoon. He estimated that during his lifetime he received only three years of formal education.



W. A. Elliott and Eliza Ellen — about 1902.

Will Elliott was twenty-two years old when he felt the call to “go west” and spent some time working on a dairy farm in Montana followed by a period of gold prospecting in Montana, Idaho and Washington.

In 1900 he married Eliza Ellen Cooke (1875-1948) the daughter of an English soldier who joined the Mormon Church in England and emigrated to Salt Lake City. Her mother was one of two sisters who joined the Mormon Church in Sweden and emigrated to Salt Lake City to become wives of Mormon bachelors. Eliza had three sons from a former marriage — Orlando William (1893-1963), David Alvin (1895-1943), and Charles Henry (1897-1954).

In 1902 the Elliott family moved by covered wagon to Edmonton. During the winter of 1902-03 Mr. Elliott worked as a carpenter in Edmonton which was experiencing a boom at that time. In 1903 the family moved to the newly acquired homestead on

the NE¼-26-57-27-W4, a mile north of the present hamlet of Busby. The townsite of Busby did not exist until the arrival of the railway about 1912.

During the early years of homesteading, making a living on the farm was difficult, and Mr. Elliott was fortunate in having a trade that was in demand. Many winters he worked in Edmonton at the carpentry trade to augment the farm and sometimes to subsidize it. He also spent one year during the first Great War working in Peace River where he helped on the



Grandpa and Grandma and “George”.

construction of an R.C.M.P. barracks and repairing river boats.

In 1925 he trained his hand at business. He built a large machine shed in Busby and opened the International Harvester Agency, a lumber yard and operated the Swifts cream buying station. A year later he gave up the business and went back to the tool box.

In 1926 the farm in Busby was rented out and for the rest of his working life Mr. Elliott earned his living in the employ of the Provincial Government as a maintenance carpenter at the Provincial Hospital in Ponoka. On his retirement in 1948 he built a home in Edmonton on 66th. Street and 115th. Avenue.

In 1948 Eliza passed away at age 75. The house in Edmonton was sold and he built a new home in Busby. In 1953 he married Florence Williams (nee McConaghy), widow of John Williams of Busby.

After selling the Busby home to Sern and Mary Andersen, Mr. and Mrs. Elliott moved to Edmonton where they purchased a small house on 95th St. in South Edmonton. In 1964 the Busby homestead was sold.

Within a few years Mr. and Mrs. Elliott took up residence in a Senior Citizens Lodge in North Edmonton where Florence passed away in 1970.

In December, 1975, Mr. Elliott celebrated his 100th birthday at a reception for friends and relatives in the Holiday Inn in Edmonton. The day was made memorable for Mr. Elliott as he made a visit to the Alberta Legislature where proceedings of the day were halted and he was recognized by the Legislature.

In February 1978, Mr. Elliott was admitted to the Westlock Nursing Home where he passed away in February 1980 aged 105 years and two months.

### **William John (Jack) Elliott Family**

Jack was born March 16, 1924 in a private Nursing Home in Edmonton, the eldest child of Orlando William Elliott and Sissy Emily May. His childhood was spent in Busby where he attended school up to grade 10. Because high school grades were discontinued in Busby, he lived with his grandparents in Ponoka where he received the rest of his formal education.

Growing up in a small town during the depression was quite different from today's youthful activities. No one ventured very far from home and, although Edmonton was a short thirty five miles away, a trip to the city was quite a venture. Because Jack's dad had a trucking business, Jack made regular trips to the city, at least one each year. Many youngsters of the day never saw the city until after they were adults.

There were no organized recreational activities. Children made their own sport — scrub, red light, run sheep run or just rolling an old tire around the block. Learning to swim in Busby was a problem but not impossible. The problem was that the only water hole available was the railway reservoir used to supply water for the steam engines. It was considered very dangerous as there was no gradual slope into the water. When you stepped off the bank you were immediately in 20 feet of water. With these conditions the reservoir was out of bounds, but all the boys in Busby during the 30's learned to swim there. The reservoir was half a mile north of Busby but no one ever took the direct route as it would be known where you were going. Long and circuitous routes were used to get to the swimming hole. These were always skinny dipping sessions so it was "No Girls Allowed".

Jack's teachers in Busby's one room school were



Jack and Lola Elliott and family. Jack, Lola, Donna, Murray, Alan and Dwaine.

— Grade 1, Mr. Carver. Grade 2, Miss Agnes Moran (Married Mr. O'Brian-Smith), Grade 3, Miss Mary Moran (Married Mr. Sern Andersen). Grade 4, Miss Molly Williamson whose brother Gordon used to announce the Edmonton Grads Basketball games over the Radio Station CJCA in Edmonton. Grades 5 to 8 Miss Violet Reynolds. Grades 9 and 10, Miss Malandain.

In 1942 Jack went to work for the Northern Alberta Railways as an Assistant Station Agent in High Prairie. Mr. Frank Darby was the Agent in Busby at that time and was responsible for Jack's interest in telegraphy and railroading. Jack's stay with the railway lasted 24 years. The first day on the job he was sent out to open a box car. Finding the latch on the box car held closed with an aluminum strip and determining that he couldn't get the door open without breaking the strip (seal) he went back to the office for more advice. The agent laughed and said "Break it" but he also realized he had a real green horn on his hands.

The years of World War 2 were busy years for the railway. The American Army was building the Alaska Highway and a telephone line from Alaska to Washington D.C. All material and equipment for these projects were carried by train to Dawson Creek. Passenger trains ran daily in both directions, complete with diner and sleeping cars. Mail was carried by the trains and a letter mailed one day in High Prairie was delivered the next morning to the folks in Busby.

After two years in High Prairie Jack transferred to Dunvegan Yards in Edmonton. While at the Yards he



turned 21 — the age of majority. The Agent, Bert Carrick, thought the occasion worthy of a celebration and provided for a small party. Among the refreshments was a drink served from a whisky bottle. It even had the right color. Many of the employees at the station started to drool in anticipation but their expressions quickly changed when it turned out to be ginger tea.

During the summer of 1944 the Pembina River flooded and all freight to Barrhead was going in by rail. Because of the extra work the Agent in Barrhead — Tommy Roberts — needed a little help, and Jack was sent to give Tommy a hand. Although he had been studying telegraphy on a hit and miss basis since starting with the railway, it was Tommy Roberts who persuaded him that there was no future on the railway unless he became a Telegrapher and an Agent. On New Years Eve 1944 Jack worked his first trick as a Telegrapher in Dunvegan Yards on the 4:00 pm. to Midnight shift.

For the next two years he worked as a relief Agent-Operator and there aren't too many stations on the N.A.R. that he didn't work in. Living out of a suit case in hotel rooms is not the best life style. In 1946 he got his first permanent position as an Operator in McLennan, the Railway Terminal of the Peace. The hours were from four AM to noon, permanently.

In July 1947 Jack Married Lola Agnes Wolfe of High Prairie. Lola was born in Vilna, Alberta in 1922. In 1927 her family moved from the Homestead in Vilna to High Prairie where Lola, her five sisters and one brother were raised. The newlyweds took a Honeymoon trip to Vancouver — travelling on a railway pass, of course. Jack found this quite exciting as it was his first look at the Rocky Mountains. Lola, however was old hand at mountain travel. Her Dad had taken the family for a trip west over the Big Bend highway when she was 8.

Their first home was a small house in McLennan

measuring 18 feet square with three rooms and a pantry — real cozy. McLennan had no local water supply and all water used in town, and on the railway, was tanked in from the river at Watino. Lola has still not gotten over the fact that she had to pay five cents a gallon for household water.

In August 1948 their first child, Alan Robert, was born.

In November 1948 the family moved to Flatbush where Jack took over his first station. While in McLennan Jack had been involved in Boy Scout activities as a Wolf Cub Leader. In Flatbush he organized a Scout Troop and continued in the work.

On May 28, 1951 their second son, Murray William, was born.

The Flatbush station was one of the first to be closed when the rush of business of the war years subsided, so in November 1951 the Elliotts moved to Donnelly, a French community west of McLennan. Alan was almost four years old and was quickly learning french from his playmates. However the stay in Donnelly was short and there was no more french.

In June 1952 Jack took the family to Brownvale where they spent the next seven years. Although they had electricity for the first time in Donnelly, it was in Brownvale that they started to acquire electrical appliances. Life was getting easy.

In July 1954 the twins, Donna and Dwane were born. The family was now complete.

Brownvale was a hamlet of about 60 to 70 population. When Murray was about six he reported to his mother that he had taken a walk around town and knew everybody and where everybody lived. He never lived in a place since that he could make that statement.

In 1959 the railway again looked to economising by closing the smaller stations and Brownvale was slated for the axe. The next move was to Kinuso which turned out to be very temporary as within three months the station at Hythe became open. The move to Hythe was made in July 1959 and was 'home' until October 1965.

Hythe was, more or less, where the Children grew up. Alan and Murray were Army Cadets, Dwane joined the Cubs and Donna joined the Explorers. Alan and Murray became very interested in curling. Later, when living in Spirit River, Murray and Dwane were both members of teams that curled in the Provincial Schoolboy Curling Championships. Jack, Alan and Murray all played instruments in the Beaverlodge Community Band. This was quite an experience for Jack as its a big transition from the mouthorgan to the trombone when your in your forties. The boys fared much better.



N.A.R. Station at Hythe, 1960. Also residence.

It was in Hythe that T.V.itis caught up with the family. A station started broadcasting from Dawson Creek so they joined the crowd and an antenna went up over the station. It was also while in Hythe that the railway modernized and diesel engines took over from the traditional steam. Some forms of modernization were not accepted too readily such as the complete removal of the passenger trains and the use of trucks to haul the express.

Vacations were scheduled on the seniority system and Jack never did seem to have enough seniority to claim a vacation when the children were out of school during July and August. So in the spring of 1963 Jack used his vacation to build a cabin at Lake Winagami, where Lola and the children could spend some of the summer holiday.

In the fall of 1965 another move was made, this time to Spirit River. This move was made for one reason only, to have a residence with sewer and water. The children were all in their teen years and it was about time they learned to take a bath.

In 1966 the railway became serious about closing stations and all were doomed. The previous year telegraph equipment had been replaced with telephone and a future on the railway as an 'Agent-Operator' did not look too good. The Municipal District of Spirit River required the services of an Administrator so Jack started asking questions. After twenty four years with the Railway Jack changed his vocation and the family had to move out of the railway dwelling, and for the first time, move into the residential area of town. This was new for the children. They had never lived in a house with close neighbors. In nearly all small communities, the closest neighbor to the railway dwelling was the local hotel complete with beer parlor.

While working for the Railway Jack was involved in two strikes. The first was in 1950 when the railway employees went on strike for the forty hour week. This was when he was in Flatbush and he spent the time splitting up a wood pile. The second strike took place in the fall of 1966 just before Jack left the railway. The subject that time was money. It was settled after five or six days and within two weeks Jack submitted his resignation.

All the children graduated from high school in Spirit River and Jack and Lola celebrated their twenty fifth wedding anniversary there in 1972.

In 1974 the Municipal District of Westlock advertised for an administrator. Jack responded and was successful in being employed in that position. The Elliotts have moved their household for the last time. Westlock is now home and will remain so.

Alan is a member of the Canadian Armed Forces. Murray graduated in Commerce from the U. of

A. and is employed as the Financial Advisor of a Travel Agency in Edmonton. He is married to Linda Crerar of Grande Prairie and has two sons, Michael and Patrick.

Dwane graduated from S.A.I.T. in 1977 in Journalism Photography and worked as Sports Editor for the Alaska Highway News in Ft. St. John B.C. and as a reporter for the Vermilion Standard. He passed away in April 1982 after a lifelong battle with diabetes.

Donna graduated in 1974 in the first Floraculture class offered at the Olds College, and is employed as a Floral Designer. She has two boys, Ian and Graham.

## **John and Nan England by Olive Hope**

John England came to Canada from Scotland in the early 1900's. He homesteaded on the NE¼ 30-60-25-W4.

John did a lot of trapping wild animals during those winters, always walking on his trapline. When he occasionally visited the neighbors, their dogs had to be watched or they would try to bite him as they didn't like the wild animal smell he had on his clothes.

He had a two story frame house and many dances were held upstairs as there were no partitions up there. He was a good dancer, very light on his feet, for a big man. He always danced the Schottische with Gladys (Heywood) Pueschel. That upstairs floor really bounced when they did that dance!

The Frank Langtrees nearly always boarded the Poplar Knoll teacher and John was right there to take the teacher out.

John made quite a few trips back to Scotland over the years, but . . . one year he made a big garden, much to everyone's curiosity. When he was asked, "Why the big garden?" he usually had some plausible excuse. No one knew he had a lady friend in Scotland. In August, 1932, a nice Scottish lady, Nan McCallum, came to Edmonton, where she was met by John. He had taken Don MacLachlan with him to be his best man. When he came home with his bride, everyone knew "why the big garden." All the people in the neighborhood got together and had a dance for the newlyweds at Pibroch Hall. A collection had been taken around the district and a gift was presented to them. Nan England was a wonderful singer, and sang at many gatherings and weddings. She was even asked to sing at her own wedding dance.

The Englands had two sons, Ian and Ross. When the boys were small, Mrs. England's mother came to live with them. She was a lovely Scotch lady.

The boys went to Reed Lake and Poplar Knoll



Schools, later going to Westlock for High School. Ian joined the Air Force and has put in over twenty-five years with this service. He is married to Rose Mary Schuster and they have three sons.

Ross tried farming for a couple of years but didn't like it, so he learned how to become a Flight Controller, and has been at Calgary Airport for quite a few years. He and his wife, Sheila, have two daughters and one son.

Mrs. England taught school at Reed Lake and Poplar Knoll, and later taught at Clyde. John liked to curl and belonged to a team in Clyde. John passed away in 1956 from a heart attack.

Mrs. England sold the farm to George Hope, as the boys were on their own by then. Mrs. England and her mother went to live with Mrs. Fricker in Clyde, where Nan had taken on teaching Grade IX. When Pembina Lodge opened, Mrs. McCallum went there to live. She passed away in 1969, after having a stroke. They are all buried in Dungannon cemetery.

### John England Family Clyde, Alberta by J. W. England

John England was born in Skene, County of Aberdeen, Scotland and immigrated to Canada in 1906. He filed for a homestead in the Clyde area (Reedlake) in Aug. 1907 — NE ¼, Sec. 30, Township 60, Range 25, W 4 M. He received the title in Nov. 1911.



John England with good catch.

Unfortunately not arriving until 1935, and father not being a story teller, I can relate little about those early times. He left Scotland because he did not get along with his father who was a farmer and also irrigation ditch contractor. My grandfather utilized his sons as a labour source with little recompence. Father saved money for his passage to Canada by poaching on the large estates. I do know that he periodically went logging in Washington and Oregon

and also did some trapping for furs in the early years to earn extra money. Some of his earlier immediate neighbours were the Haywood's, Buckley Ferguson, Dave Blighth, the Lebeau's, Cole's and Frank Langtree.

In later years I would know father as a farmer and an avid curling enthusiast. He belonged to the Clyde Curling Club and went curling in temperatures that he wouldn't have done anything else in. His rink was usually made up of members from the Reedlake community. Among members were Mossey Dussault, Clarence Davis, Chevy Chevalier, Hector Campbell, Boy Lebeau, Jake McCarther and George Hope. He was president of the local community telephone company for many years prior to being taken over by AGT. In 1949 he purchased Frank Langtree's ¼ sec. directly south of the homestead.

On a return visit to Scotland in 1932 he met Nancy Ross McCallum a school teacher from Aberdeen, who would come to Canada in 1933. They were married on the 16 Aug 1933 in the First Presbyterian Manse in Edmonton. Witnesses were long time friend Donald MacLachlan, Clyde, Alta. and Miss J. Hanlon of Edmonton.

Mother was not immediately impressed with her new country abode, although a new frame house of the times. Father assured her that it was a damn fine house compared to some, the transition from city to country outback took a bit of adjusting. However with new friends gained it became home. Two sons were born, John (Ian) W. England in 1935 now at the Cold Lake airbase and Ross M. England in 1937 now a resident of Calgary.

Just prior to the second World War grandmother



Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. England, Grandmother and Mrs. Berwick.

McCallum came out for a visit from Scotland. She was unable to return to Scotland until 1947. Once back in Scotland she found it no longer appealing. Selling her holdings she returned to Canada to become part of the family until her death in 1962. She was a person who saw humour in adversity and baked the best scones I've ever tasted.

During the war years mother returned to teaching school. She taught in both Reedlake and Poplar Knoll schools, both single room schools with nine grades, not an enviable task. She was a staunch member of the Clyde United Church and sang in the choir. Mother had a good singing voice and was a popular choice for weddings and community functions in the Clyde and Westlock area's.

When father died in 1956, mother remained on the farm until 1958, then returned to teaching, first in Clyde and starting in 1963 in Edmonton. The farm was rented for a period then sold in 1961. The homestead ¼ to George Hope and the Langtree ¼ to the Hupertz family. Mother died in 1969. Both parents are interred at Dunganon cemetery.

## **The Andrew Erickson Family**

### **by Beryl (Swanson) Erickson**

Andrew and Martha Erickson both came from Sweden in the mid 1800's. They were married in 1894 and settled on a farm in Minnesota.

In the early 1900's Canada was sending out pamphlets to attract settlers. Among those who caught the "Canada Fever" were the Ericksons, a family named Westlund and a bachelor neighbor named Norlien. In 1905, the three men came to Alberta and filed on homesteads west of Busby.

The next summer they sold their farms in Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Erickson, their two children, Ellen aged 10 and John aged 6, and Mr. Norlien came first by train to Edmonton.

In 1906 Edmonton was very different from today. Owing to heavy rains and heavy traffic of freight wagons, the mud was almost knee-deep around the old station platform. It was not as inviting as they had hoped for.

After a short stay in Immigration Hall, they hired a man with a team and wagon to take them to their homestead.

The trail wound around trees, brush and pot-holes until they got within a couple of miles of their place and could go no further so they unloaded, and set up camp by a creek. They had bought supplies, a tent and a small cookstove in Edmonton.

It rained for several days, so they had to keep their supplies in the tent, which didn't leave much room for the five people. Mrs. Erickson managed to get a fire going in the stove outside, and baked bread

and cooked. John spent his seventh birthday September 1, 1906, camped by the creek.

Mr. Erickson bought a team of oxen and a milk cow from Dave Watson on N.E. of 12-58-27-W5. He then cut a trail the rest of the way to his place S.E. 8-58-27-W4 and built a long log shack, long enough so the Westlund family and Mr. Norlien could spend the winter with them. The shack had no floor.

The oxen and cow were tied to trees. One night a bunch of cattle came and were fighting with them. The only thing the Ericksons could do was to bring their cattle inside as they had no other buildings as yet. The next day, they had just got them moved out, and cleaned up when the family arrived.

The Westlunds had come with two box cars to the end of steel at Morinville. One of the cars had tipped over, killing two horses.

The men cut logs and squared them with broad axes and built houses on the three places. Westlund's homestead was NW of 8-58-27-W of 4, and Norlien's was SW of 16-58-27 of 4. They cleared land and in spite of heel flies which sent oxen, plough, men and all pell mell into the barns many times, finally got some seeding done, only to have a hail storm wipe them out in September, the day before they intended to start cutting.

The work was hard on all of them but they had many good times too. Especially the children enjoyed themselves exploring in the woods; and best of all, at first there were no schools!

In summer the settlers would have ball games and picnics; in winter they had house parties and card games.

John and Ellen made a deal with their father, to each clear an acre of land for a new pair of shoes. They chopped away but found it much harder than watching the men, so they didn't get much brush cut. Ellen says they had to walk seven miles to the store to get the shoes, but they were happy. The closest Post Office and store was at Independence, where the church and hall now stand.

Ralph and Alf Bierkas came from Norway about 1910. Their first winter in Alberta they lived in a tent, where the Royal Alex Hospital now stands. They said it was very cold in the tent. Ralph Bierkas filed on the NE2-58-27-W5.

Ralph Bierkas and Ellen Erickson were married in 1922. They lost their first child, Ruth, but raised nine children — Harold, Doris, Walter, Lena, Eric, Margret, Norman, Phyllis and Mary. Ralph passed away in 1979, aged 85. Ellen, now 87 and still in good health, lives on the homestead with her son, Walter.

My folks also got bit by the "homesteading-in-



Canada" bug. My dad sold his farm in Minnesota and we crossed the line at Emerson. At that time, it was only a small one-street town, — a very muddy short street. They gave us a very bad time at the line. They made us unload everything out of the car and wanted \$52.00 each entrance fees! If the big Overland touring car hadn't been stuck in the mud, I'm sure we would have turned back. As it was, by the time we got pulled out of the mud, they had become more friendly and decided we didn't have to pay any fee — and then, maybe my dad did not want to go back through that mudhole! Anyway, we went on.

In 1924, my dad came to Alberta on an elevator gang. Later he sent for my mother, my sisters Helen, Charlotte, Blanch, Eleanor and I. He rented a farm, the Chris Henderson homestead, NE of 5-58-27-W of 4. My twin sisters, Gladys and Lois, were born there in 1925. My maiden name was Swanson.

I married John Erickson in 1926. Helen was also married here, but my folks went back to Washington, and Helen and her husband moved to B.C.

Andrew Erickson moved to B.C., and died there in 1950 at the age of 95.

Martha Erickson stayed on the homestead with John and me until she passed away in 1948, aged 76 years.

John and I farmed the old homestead and later bought Bill Verding's homestead, SW9-58-27-W of 4. We raised six children: Andrew, Martha, Maurice, Evelyn, Albin and Clifford, who passed away in 1960, aged 18.

Andrew and his wife Donna live at Clearwater, B.C. with their three children.

Martha Bohnet and her two sons live on a farm west of Westlock.

Maurice moved his wife Olive and four children to Kelowna, B.C. in 1981.

Evelyn Fox and husband live north of Spirit River, Alberta. They raised six children.

Albin has a farm at Fort Assiniboine. He raised two children.

John and I moved to Westlock in 1972, where John passed away just two weeks after our fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1976. He was 76 years.

When I came to Alberta in 1925 I liked it very much and I still do. I would rather be out in the country, but I am 75 now — too old to be homesteading any more.

## **The Falk Family**

Rev. and Mrs. Norman Falk, with son David and daughter Karen, arrived in Westlock in January, 1970, to pastor the Church of the Nazarene in East Glen. At that time there was no manse so the Pastor and his family lived in an apartment in the church

basement. The lot directly east of the church was at that time still covered with trees.

Rev. Falk also pastored the Church of the Nazarene at Dapp Corner during the early part of his term.

During the time of the Falk's stay, the Dapp Church was closed, the property sold and the congregation transferred to Westlock. This took place in 1972.

Several improvements to the property were made; the parking lot was enlarged and gravelled, new pews were installed in the church, the lot to the east side was cleared and in 1975 the manse was built. Several large donations enabled the manse to be free of debt five months after the building was completed. The new manse made it possible to renovate the church basement, making accommodation available for the growing Sunday School and congregation.

Rev. and Mrs. Falk transferred to Olds in June, 1978 after serving Westlock for eight and one half years. During those years David and Karen had graduated from Westlock High School. Karen married David Armstrong and is still living west of Dapp. David graduated from the University of Calgary with his M.D. degree, married Dawn Bray of Calgary and they have served four years as medical missionaries in Swaziland, Africa.

## **H. "Bob" Fawcett**

**by Clara Brown**

In 1904 H. "Bob" Fawcett filed on the SE¼-12-58-26-W4.

He was appointed senior trustee when the Springfield School district was established in 1906. He was postmaster for LaCalmette Post Office in 1912.

In later years he resided on SE¼-1-58-26-W4. Bob Fawcett was a bachelor, English by birth, but had spent some time in the western United States where he was engaged in mining.

He had to associate with some rather rough people while there, so always carried a revolver with him. The revolver was still in his possession at the time of his death, caused by the 'flu' in 1918. W. B. H. Squair was one of his best friends and also one of the executors of his will. He inherited Bob's personal belongings, including the revolver, which he later sold to Joe Rivet, to be included in his collection of firearms.

## **Buckley and Mary Ferguson**

**by Olive Hope**

Buckley Ferguson came from Nova Scotia about 1905 and took up a homestead, the NW¼ 30-60-25-W4. He built a log cabin and made his own furniture.

When he decided to get married, he built a good

sized frame house. Tom Heywood constructed the stone foundation for him, which was a good three feet thick.

Buckley and Mary were married a bit late in life and never had any family. Buckley was very fond of children, and at local dances he always had a group of children around him.

Mrs. Ferguson was a good piano player, who could play the piano and mouth organ at the same time. At threshing time, the men used to get her to play a piece or two while they ate their meals.

In the late 1930's Mrs. Ferguson's health began to fail, so in 1942 they decided to retire and move to Westlock. They sold their farm to George Hope.

Mrs. Ferguson passed away a few years later. Buckley's sister, Mrs. Sutherland, came to keep house for him. When Buckley's health failed, he had to go to the Barrhead Nursing Home, and he was there until the Westlock Auxiliary Hospital opened, when he was transferred to it, but he only lived a short while after being admitted.

His sister stayed in the house, but then she had to go to the Nursing Home until she passed away. All three are buried in the Westlock Cemetery.

**Louis Filion**  
**from the Westlock News**  
**May, 1950**

"Never mind the exact date. There'd be too much of a fuss," declared Louis Filion this week in an interview as he anticipated his 90th birthday in the early part of the month. A retiring resident of the town but interested in its activities, Mr. Filion looks back this month on a life that has been active and varied to the extreme.

Born in Winnipeg in May, 1860, he first came to the country in 1904 when he was a member of the first survey party laying out what is now the baseline. He liked the district, staying when others left, and taking up land at Hazel Bluff, three miles west and two miles south of Westlock in 1905. In 1937 he retired from the farm and took up residence in town, where he now resides at the M. Racine home on First Street.

Surveying was comparatively tame stuff to Mr. Filion, for in 1885 he joined the forces that were organized to put down the Riel Rebellion. A soldier at heart, he was prompt to enlist in World War I, and served with the 222 Edmonton Regiment.

His farm was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Roy McGlone in 1940.

**Mr. and Mrs. David John Finnigan and Family**

David Finnigan married Katherine Wagner in

1898 from Pennsylvania, U.S.A. They had three sons, Urban, Carl (who died in infancy) and Pat.

In 1906 they decided to come to Canada, and when they arrived in Edmonton, they agreed to settle there. From there, David came north to the Westlock area looking for a homestead. He settled on SW¼ 11-59-1-W5, which was located in the Eastburg community. He built a small shack in the southwest corner of the quarter and started clearing land. He would go to see how his family was getting along in Edmonton, often walking the fifty miles.

Mrs. Finnigan and Urban were employed in the Great West Garment factory to earn money to live on. Their son, David, was born in Edmonton in 1907.

That year they all moved out to the homestead where Raymond was born in 1908. All the farming was done with oxen. Mr. Finnigan was a great potato eater, so they usually had an acre of land planted to potatoes, which kept the boys busy and out of mischief (they hoped!).



A family group at the Finnigan's.

Harold was born in 1914. By this time they had built a fair sized home and a barn. They milked cows and hauled the milk to Rossington with the horse and buggy to sell for cheesemaking. At that time there was a thriving cheese factory at Rossington.

In the early days there were no fences around the quarters to keep the stock from roaming; most of the settlers just let their cattle run free. When it was time to go get the cows for milking, the boys had to go into the bush and find their own cows. Among all the cattle there were a lot of bulls, so it was a rather scary job for the boys. Pa used to send them out at about five o'clock in the morning, while it was still dark. If they couldn't find the cows or the bulls were near, they would hide behind a fallen log and drop off to sleep. Then Pa would have to come looking for them, usually with a willow switch!

Several years later, Harold was cutting hay one



day with a lively team, when he decided to get a drink, so he left the team. It so happened that the flies were bad that day and the team took off on their own and cut off about twenty rods of fence posts. Needless to say, the mower never cut hay any more.

In 1957, Pa Finnigan built a hotel in Manola. They hauled lumber from Pete Soales and Boisvert's saw mill at Shoal Creek with the teams. It was a big, two story hotel with ten bedrooms upstairs, and a diningroom, beer parlor and lobby downstairs. Unfortunately, it burned down about three years later.

Mr. Finnigan helped build many roads around the district, as in this way he could work off his taxes, or at least part of them, depending on how much work was needed. As soon as the boys were fifteen years old they hired out to stook bundles (sheaves) and thresh grain. Pat went back to the States to stay when he was sixteen years old. He got married and had five children. He and his wife both passed away in 1950.

Urban farmed a quarter northeast of the home place until 1969. He died of a heart attack that year.

Dave has the quarter across the road from the home place, where he still lives.



Harold and Meda at Blanche and Raymond Finnigan's 41st wedding anniversary.

Raymond married Blanche Dickens, and they farmed the quarter south of the home farm. Their family consisted of three boys, Stanley, William and Robert. Stanley bought Urban's quarter and married Verna Pendrak. They have one girl.

Bill, who is living on Raymond Finnigan's farm, is married to Margaret Pendrak. They have two boys and a girl.

Robert is married and has one daughter. He makes his home in Edmonton.

In 1940 Harold married Meda Bohnet and they have one girl. They moved into Westlock in 1976.

Mr. and Mrs. Finnigan stayed on their farm until 1943, when they sold out and moved to Westlock. Ma Finnigan passed away in 1948 and Pa passed away in 1950. Urban farmed until his death in 1969. Raymond and Blanche moved into Westlock in 1970. They both joined the Golden Age Club and were active there in many ways. Blanche passed away in 1981.

## Memories

### by Mildred (Phillips) Fitzgerald

Recollections of my early childhood bring to mind the house where I was born in Picardville. For some reason we referred to it as the Elstock house. It was a two story building in the northwest part of town.

I was five years of age when my family moved 4 miles south and east of Picardville; which was my home until I left at the age of 19.

I recall riding horseback to Vermillion Springs school, a distance of 3 miles. Our horse "Dolly"



Sydney Phillips and children. Jim, Mildred, Bill, Thelma and Ralph.

used to get tired of three of us on her back so she would shy at the slightest thing and throw us to the ground, then head for home. The three were Jim, Bill and myself. Dad cured her of this trick by tying her to the bumper of the car and running her back to us. After a few times of this she gave in and although she would still shy and dump us she would wait until we got back on again.

Most of our free time in the summer was spent picking berries. First the strawberries, then raspberries from the patch by the creek on the farm. Off we'd go with mosquito nets over our straw hats to protect

us from the pests, (no "OFF" in those days), and mother would be singing "Red Wing" to try and boost our morale, because we could think of lots of things we would rather do than pick berries on a hot day. However, we learned to appreciate the fruit along with the canned vegetables etc. that were



Samuel and Elizabeth Yeomans Sr.

stored in the cellar and used throughout the long cold winters.

I can recall traipsing after dad on the plough in the spring, the feel of fresh moist dirt on the bare feet is unforgettable, and mother sometimes driving the horses in the field because there was no extra money to pay for hired help.

Another summer pastime was flushing the gopher holes with water so that my brothers could retrieve the tails, for which they were compensated by the government through the schools. (The joys of being a teacher in those days.)

There are many recollections of blueberry picking expeditions, picnic style along with other families. Then there was the country annual picnics in the different communities, where I would win most of the races, and later was convinced that the only reason we attended was because I made the gate fee by winning the races. We were raised during the "Hungry Thirties" but never lacked for enough to eat. It was a big thrill to get a new dress for Christmas, although I can recall being embarrassed having to wear my father's overalls over my snowsuit to protect it from the horse hair and also to keep me warm on my 4 mile jaunt to high school.

I attended Picardville high school and met my husband to be at the impressionable ages of 16, respectively. We were married 8 years later, when he returned from the war. We happily raised 4 boys and a girl and made our home in Fort St. John, B.C.

## The Fitzsimonds Family by Helen Hardy

In 1930 Norman Fitzsimonds left his job at Do-

minion Motors in Edmonton and with his wife Mary (McAra) and their three small children Helen, Jack and Jimmy, arrived to live on the Harry Pike place (SW 26-59-26 W4) southeast of Westlock. Here another son, Kenneth was born in 1946.

In 1938, after several short moves, the Fitzsimonds family was permanently settled on NW 21-62-26 W4, almost sixteen miles north of Westlock. Norman and Mary lived on the farm until Norman's last illness in 1954. Mary returned to Edmonton to her secretarial career. She retired in 1965 and at age 86 (in 1983) maintains her own apartment.

Helen married Ralph Hardy of the Jarvie district. Their sons, Norman and Russell, were born while Helen and Ralph lived on the farm. Later they moved to a home and employment in Edmonton. Ralph retired in 1972. He died in 1978. Helen has recently retired but still lives in the family home. The boys, both married live on Vancouver Island.

Jack moved to Edmonton and a job with his father's old employer, Dominion Motors. He married Enid Nicholson (formerly of Westlock). Their four children, two daughters and two sons, are now grown and scattered throughout Alberta and B.C.

Jim moved to Edmonton, worked for the C.N., and later joined M.O.T. as a fireman. He married Beverly Kennedy, a Regina girl. They have a son and a daughter, now both grown, and pursuing higher education.

Kenneth, partially disabled in a car accident, lives alone in Edmonton.

## Francis Flintoff Family submitted by Brenda Flintoff

Mr. Flintoff Sr. came to the Fort Saskatchewan area in 1892 from Ontario. Francis' mother, Lilian



Francis Flintoff, Bev and Wayne.



came to the same area in 1900. Francis was born there and attended school at the Fort. He was very active in hockey and baseball.

In 1940 Francis and his mother moved to the Hazel Bluff district and farmed land which was two miles west and ½ mile south of Hazel Bluff Church. In 1944, Francis married Brenda Phillips of the High-ridge district. Brenda was born in Wales.

They raised two children: Beverly and Wayne. Both children completed their public schooling in Westlock. Beverly lives in St. Albert with her husband, Dave McCracken and their two children Kevin



Francis and Brenda Flintoff 1944.

and Daren. Wayne presently lives in London Ontario and is Associate Professor at the University of Western Ontario. Besides farming, Francis drove the mail truck to Swan Hills for several years and worked at the Westlock Auxiliary Hospital for four years. He is now retired on the home farm where he and Brenda enjoy their comfortable home.

### **Joseph Charlton Forbes** **by Bernie Forbes**

In the fall of 1925 the Forbes family arrived in Westlock. They had moved from Manyberries where Dad had Homesteaded and had lived for a few years.



Bell and Joe Forbes with Russell, Pete, Bernie and Cathy.

In the early twenties there was a long dry spell, so the Provincial Government of Alberta helped move most of the farmers to the northern part of the Province. My Dad chose to move to Westlock.

The first winter we lived on the farm that was later owned by Will Whiteman, father of Ray and Iris Whiteman. The next spring we moved onto the Chafey farm, and we lived there, right on the bank of the Pembina River, for three years. What a noticeable change! When we left Manyberries there was nothing but grasshoppers, gophers and dust.

The first summer on the river, the banks were lined with high and low bush cranberries, saskatoons, and chokecherries, and along the fence lines were rows of wild raspberries. We practically lived on wild fruit that first summer.

While living by the river we went to Riverdale School. From the north there were children from four families who attended Riverdale; Oliver and Doug Smith, Ray and Iris Whiteman, Les and Ivy Durling and the three Forbes boys, Russell, Albert (Pete) and myself, Bernie.

In 1928 Joseph Forbes and his family moved from the Riverdale School District to the Sunny Bank School District, and farmed there until Mr. and Mrs. Forbes retired from farming in 1956.

Bernard took over the home farm in 1956 and farmed there until 1978, when his eldest son, Wayne, bought the farm.

Russell, the oldest son of Joseph and Isabell, married Dorothy Myers in 1955, and have spent all their married life in Red Deer. They have one son, Gordon.

Albert (Pete) married Gail Laurie in 1947. They have spent all their married life in B.C., and are now retired and living in Kelowna.

Bernard married Doreen Brinton in 1949, and after farming for almost thirty years, they are now retired in Westlock. They have six children; Wayne, Colleen, Daryl, Roy, Jim, and Mary.

In 1946 Catherine became the bride of Douglas Bleakley and they have always made their home in Edmonton. Their three children are Barbara, Bill and Betty.

There was an incident happened at Riverdale School that has never been forgotten by the students. There was a large explosion in the stove, caused by a .22 shell. The teacher, Mr. Mow, was quite upset and threatened to give every kid the strap unless someone owned up to the prank. No one came forth to confess, so everyone got the strap! There were certainly a lot of "hurt" students, and upset parents, over that. It was years before the truth came out and Pete Forbes confessed to being the culprit. There are probably many more stories of the "River Rats" and the "Sunbybankers"!

## The Homestead Neil Forbes' Family

by J. A. Forbes

Neil was born in Partick, Glasgow, Scotland, on November 7, 1879. He had three brothers and a sister; John, Peter, Andrew and Jenny.

As a young boy he attended school in Partick. In his spare time he worked as an errand boy for a bakery shop. Later, after night classes and trade school, he worked as a steam fitter and tinsmith for J. Brown and Co. in the Clydebank Shipyards.



Mr. and Mrs. Neil Forbes on their wedding day June 19, 1912. Taken in Edmonton with Rev. McQueen.

One of the often talked of topics then was the opportunity of cheap land in Western Canada. In early November, 1902, four young Scotch lads, Neil Forbes, George MacLachlan, Duncan Gray and James Curle arrived in Edmonton. They, along with hundreds more from almost anywhere overseas all came here with the same interest — land.

The land cruising trips up and around the Clyde area ended up by Neil filing a homestead on the NE ¼-28-59-25 West of 4th, with Dominion Lands on November 8, 1902.

The young homesteaders had to hustle to survive.

They had to spend so much time at the homestead and after that it was off to Edmonton to work at their trade. From then on many changes had to occur. There were roads to build, houses to erect. Later, Neil went back to Glasgow for a holiday and while there he met a young lady, Nora Niblett. They became engaged and a year later Nora came to Edmonton. On June 12, 1912 they were married in Edmonton with Reverend McQueen performing the ceremony. The house on the homestead was nearly ready so they lived there until about the mid 1930's.

I was born on the farm in 1913 and my brother Edward was born about 2½ years later.

Some time around 1911 or so Neil and a friend Mr. McEwen were agents for Tudhope Anderson machinery. I understand they had a building somewhere in Clyde. Being a handy tinsmith, Neil was often visited by neighbours whose pots, pans, boilers, radiators and all else that no longer held water or cream needed fixing.



Edison Football Team 1906. L to R, back row: Hodgson, Robertson, N. Forbes, S. Beatt, J. Taylor, J. Curle, L. Zaczowski. Seated: J. Caskanette, A. Edgson, S. MacLachlan, J. Steedman and Alex McGregor.

It seemed no time at all until we were in the midst of the dirty 30's and the then pending W.W. II.

Ed served in the Army and I in the R.C.A.F. After that Ed and his wife Olga operated motels in Radium, B.C.

In the early days settlers had a lot of entertainment. There were parties and picnics, dances and football and all went over quite well. Many of the settlers took part and a lot of good games were held at the Clyde Picnic grounds.

In 1947, after the war, I married Gertrude Batog who came from Tawatinaw. We have a married daughter who lives in Fort McMurray with her husband and two children, a married son who lives in Killam with his wife and three children and a single son and daughter who both reside in Edmonton.



My brother Ed passed away in November, 1979. His wife and daughter and two grandsons live in Calgary.

We, like so many readers and writers, are thankful that we live in this fortunate part of the world. We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this book and I am sure it will be a success.

## Aime Fortier Family and Wilfred Provencal

by Mrs. Wilfred Provencal

Aime Fortier took his homestead seven miles S.E. of Westlock, S.E. of section 30-59-26-W4 in 1904. He was born in Ripon, Quebec, April 29, 1887. He came to Morinville, Alberta when he was twelve in 1899. His father was Francois Fortier and Mother Elodia Sabourin. He had two brothers and two sisters. Francois Jr. and Rosaire, Romelda (Mrs. Donat Gingras) and Dorilda (Mrs. Oscar Chevrier). Aime's Dad and brother Francois also took homesteads and later Rosaire also farmed in the district.

Francois Fortier, Sr. and Sons were carpenters as well as farmers. Many buildings are still around today, which they built.

Aime was married to Fleuriska Riopel in 1908 and settled on his homestead. The Riopels came from



Aime Fortier family with Aime's Dad in the back (Francois Sr.). Albreda, Juliette. Front: Germaine, Gabrielle, Mom, Gertrude and Dad, 1943.

farmed for awhile and then moved to Vimy as a grain buyer and later as a machinery agent. They had five children. He was councillor for the M.D. of Westlock for quite a few years. Juliette (Mrs. Fisalem Cloutier) was from Pickardville, they raised three children. She worked many years for A&M Stores. Her son has been a bank manager for the Bank of Montreal for many years. Germaine (Mrs. Lucien St Arnaud) was from Edmonton and they had five children. She was a school teacher in Vimy for eight years. Gabrielle, who joined the "Daughter of Jesus Congregation", was also a school teacher. She was Mother Provincial of her Order for six years and now has been in Missions for three years. Gertrude (Mrs. Wilfred Provencal) now from Westlock, was from Vimy where they raised eight children, two girls and six boys, all married now. All the boys were involved in sports, especially hockey and baseball which their Dad coached for fifteen years.

Roland (known as Pro the barber) was very much involved in sports in Westlock. He and his wife Judy are now in Lacombe. Maurice and his wife Anne are in Peace River. Leo and wife Darlene are postmasters in Vimy. Irene (Mrs. Claude Huot) and Jeanne (Mrs.



Fortier — Four generations.

Joliette, Quebec around 1893 and also settled around Morinville. The first years on the farms were not like today. It was like everyone else, poverty, and everything made from scratch, no electricity nor utilities, but everyone made the best of it and were happy. It did not cost much to entertain and enjoy themselves. The farm was sold in 1940 when he and his wife moved to Vimy.

From the Aime Fortier family six children were born. One died during the influenza epidemic. Albreda, who married Delia Larose from Legal,



Aime Fortier harvesting. Mrs. Fortier standing by binder, 1923.

George St Laurent) are in Morinville. Paul and wife Doreen in Legal. Peter who has been with Lindahls for eleven years, his wife Candace; and Rick and wife Yvette live in Westlock. Rick is now employed by the town of Westlock.

Mrs. Aime Fortier was the organist at church on "La Butte" Edison, then in 1920 in Vimy, till daughter Julliette took over, when she got married and moved to Pickardville, Mother took over again, till daughter Gertrude took over in 1933 till 1975 when she moved to Westlock and kept on with music at church, Auxilliary Hospital and Nursing Home, wherever it was needed.

Wilfred Provencal's Dad, Arthur also took a homestead in Vimy in 1905. He married Angelina Proulx in 1912. They had eight children. Wilfred was with the U.G.G. elevators for eighteen years in Vimy. Wilf and Gertie owned and drove a school bus for twenty-eight years. Wilfred joined Fields Store in 1973 and in 1974 was appointed manager of the store till he retired at the end of March 1982.

**Art and Irene Fortin  
by Their Children**

At the age of four Dad came with his parents, George and Florida Fortin, to their homestead in the Westlock District. The farm was located four miles west and three and three-quarters south of Westlock. When Dad started school he and our Uncle Omer had to walk two and a half miles through the bush to Wood Glen School as there were no road allowances until 1924. He homesteaded, along with his father and brother, Omer, in the Dapp area in 1933. In 1937 he married Irene Strachen who had moved to the Dapp district with her family from Melitia, Man. They resided on Dad's homestead until 1942, when they took over Grandfather's farm.

For the next thirty years they raised cattle and pigs and grew mixed grains. During 18 of these years



Fortin children in cart, early 1940's.

Dad worked at the Seed Cleaning plant in Westlock. He had to quit because the dust was too hard on his lungs. Mom often drove the tractor while haying and harvesting, helped with farm chores, all the while tending a large garden and sewing for her family.

There were seven children in our family. The oldest four of us, Vi, Jeanett, Ernie and Raymond attended Wood Glen school until it closed in December, 1950. Our last teacher was Mrs. Ernie Campo who had also taught Dad at Wood Glen before she was married.

After Wood Glen school closed we were bussed to Westlock. Spring floods often saw the Wabash flooding two to three feet over the road. We either stayed in town for a couple of weeks or rode through on the tractor if the water was not too deep.

Vi married and had two children. Daughter Shelley Hrynk lives in Peace River and son Randy Pollard lives in Westlock. Vi currently resides in Edmonton where she works as a rehabilitation practitioner. Second daughter, Jan, married Keith Deeprose of Edmonton. They have three sons; Larry, Darryl and Kevin. Jan is a loans officer for a bank in Toronto.



Art and Irene Fortin family. L to R: Ron, Judy, Ray, Bertha, Vi, Jan and Ernie.

Ray passed away in September 1982, leaving his widow Carol, and five children of Chetwynd. Darcy and Debbie, and sons Duncan, Dwayne and Dyland. Ray was working for the B.C. Government as a weigh scale agent and farming.

Ernie and Esther (nee Fishbuck) bought Dad's farm in 1976. Their farm operation specializes in hogs. They have three children, Dawn, Greg and Glen.

Ron married Linda Burke of Barrhead. They



have one daughter, Cheri and one son, Scott. He is a Junior High School principal in Edmonton.

Bertha married Morris Victoor of Pickardville. They live on an acreage and have four children; Kelly, Larry, Lori-Ann and Nadine.

Judy, who is a R.N.A. lives in Edmonton. She has enjoyed many years of travelling in Europe, Japan, Australia and Africa.

In 1972 Mom and Dad retired from farming, moving into Westlock for a year before moving to Salmon Arm, B.C. where Dad found employment as a carpenter with Vischer Bros. In 1979 they sold their beautiful home Dad had built and returned to Westlock. Dad still keeps his hammer busy doing odd jobs. Mom and Dad are enjoying their retirement years in their new home in Westlock.

## George Fortin

by Laura Goveski

George Fortin was born in 1882 in Min Jolie, Quebec, the oldest of nine children. In his early years his parents moved back and forth between Quebec and Madawaska, Maine, U.S.A., where three brothers and two sisters married and settled down.

In 1902, George married Florida Dubois of Desraeli, Quebec, then returned to Maine where he worked in the paper mills while Florida worked in a

garment factory. After a short stint in the U.S.A. they returned to Quebec where George found work as a cook in lumber camps.

In 1906, leaving two deceased children behind, they travelled west and settled in Morinville, Alberta. While George worked in the mines, Florida worked as a chambermaid in the Morinville Hotel until they moved to Cardiff. Life was hard — George worked in the underground mines with explosives, blasting the coal loose. There was the ever present danger of a cave-in. The signs of the underground mines can still be seen, although the tar-paper shacks have long since disappeared. Florida kept busy sewing for the neighbors. There, seven more children were born to them, but only Omer, Arthur, Edward and Laura survived childhood. The 'flu' of 1918 took the lives of the other three children.

In 1919, George bought a farm and in the spring of 1920 moved his family and possessions by train to the "end of the steel" at Pickardville (as it was then known). There he loaded everything into a high wagon and made his way by trails to the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -14-59-27-W4 which was to be their home. This is where Albert and Harvey were born. They also lost another infant.

In the early years on the farm, when there was not much income off the land, George went back to work in the mines. Summertime he was busy clearing more land by hand, using blasting powder for the stumps the horses could not dislodge. Only five to ten acres could be cleared in a season, as everything had to be done with only a team of horses. In the late 1920's George bought the adjoining quarter of land, but this was not enough land as the boys were growing up, so he homesteaded in the Dapp area along with Omer and Arthur. George gave his homestead up after a few years.

Before a hospital was built in Westlock, a house was used as one. There Florida underwent surgery for appendicitis. Having no facilities, hot water bottles were used to keep her warm. These accidentally caused severe burns to her legs. For several weeks after her discharge, Dr. Millar journeyed 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the farm twice a week, by horse and buggy, to attend to her burns.

Florida helped out on the farm by stooking, doing chores and tending to a large garden. Wintertime saw her knitting endless pairs of stockings and mittens as well as sewing. She passed away in 1940 after a lengthy illness.

George remained on the farm with Harvey and Edward until 1946, when he retired to Westlock. He lived in his own home until 1978 when he entered the Auxiliary Hospital in Westlock. He passed away in September, 1979, just after his 97th birthday.



George Fortin as camp cook.

When he moved to Westlock, Edward went to work for La Forge Well Drilling. He held various other jobs as time went on, always doing lots of fishing in between. He passed away in 1982.

Laura joined the R C A F in 1942 and was discharged in 1945. She married John Goveski and moved to a farm in the Dapp district. They sold out in 1971 and moved to Kelowna, B.C., where they reside today.

Alberta also served in the R C A F during and after the war. He married Jean Thibault of Westlock in 1946. Two children were born to them; Colleen and Jerry. Upon his discharge they moved to Sherwood Park but found the climate did not agree with his health so moved to Sidney, B.C.

After having lived and worked in many centres in Alberta, Harvey now resides in Drayton Valley, Alberta.

### Omer and Pat Fortin

Omer Fortin arrived in this world on October 4th 1908. He was the third child born to George and Florida Fortin, at Morinville. They lived there until 1920, when they moved to the farm in the Westlock district. Omer attended school at Woodglen, a one room school four and three quarter miles south of Westlock.



Pat and Omer Fortin.

In the late 20's they acquired three farms in the Dapp district. At the time George Fortin, Omer and Art settled there, and in the early 30's they took logs off the farms for lumber. It was in Larkspur that Omer met Patsy Chase, and on November 4th 1935 they were married. There were five children born to this union. Yvonne, their first born, arrived on July 28, 1936, George was born on March 20th 1938, Hank on April 7th 1941, then came Rick on March 12, 1947 and finally Marilyn on October 9, 1953.

On the 6th August, 1941, Omer enlisted in the R.C.A.F. as a tractor operator. He served in Greenwood, Nova Scotia; Trenton, Ontario; Calgary, Alberta, and in the north at Grande Prairie, Fort Nelson and Fort St. John.

His wife Pat, and their family moved from Larkspur to the farm in Westlock area, and from there to Westlock in 1941. By this time the three oldest children had been born. Omer was discharged on October 19, 1945. He worked around Westlock until he got a quarter of land seven miles north-east of Westlock through the D.V.A. By this time the two youngest children were born. They farmed there until 1961, when Omer had a heart attack. Upon the advice of his doctor, they had a sale and moved into Westlock again in 1962. Omer did a few jobs around home, worked for Julio Tosto, and with help from the family and Pat, who was working at the Auxiliary Hospital, managed to keep the household going.

In 1968, the doctor thought Omer could go back to work on a steady schedule, but things didn't work out as well as he thought. On March 16, 1968, Omer passed away in his sleep.



George Fortin.



Pat still lives in Westlock, was re-married but is now separated.

Yvonne, a widow, makes her home in Westlock also.

George lives at Josephburg and works in Fort Saskatchewan.

Hank lives in Comox, B.C. He is in the Canadian Navy.

Rick, the only one not married, is living in Edmonton where he works for Safeway.

Marylyn, who is married and lives in Bon Accord, works in Edmonton at Midland Superior.

All told, there are ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

## **Joe and Helena Frankland**

**by George A. McMillan**

Joe Frankland was born in England in 1865. He got his schooling and worked as a farm helper until the early 1900's, when he and a friend, P. W. Sealy, decided to emigrate to Canada.

On reaching Edmonton they heard of good homesteads some forty miles to the north-west. In the spring of 1903, Joe Frankland filed on the NW¼-6-58-26-W4, where he built a house and barn, did the required amount of clearing and breaking and got his title in October, 1906.

He had a fair education himself and thought all the children in the district should have the same, so when the Vermillion Springs School District was formed and a school built, he was one of the first trustees, a position he held for many years.

On June 25, 1911, he married a widow, Mrs. Helena Graham, of the district. They farmed quite successfully on the homestead for many years. Mrs. Frankland became ill in her senior years and went to live with her daughter, Mrs. George McMillan.

In the spring of 1926, Joe Frankland was taken to the hospital with a very bad cold which turned to be pneumonia. He only lived a few days as the doctors didn't have the modern medicines of today.

Mrs. Frankland passed away in 1929 at the age of 84 years. They are both buried in the Advance Cemetery in Busby district.

## **George and Clara French**

George Bertram French, his wife Clara and young son Jack, came to Westlock in the early 1900's.

Bert, as he was known, came as station master for the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia railway.

Later, he operated a confectionery and fruit store in town. He was an ardent curler, and bought one of the first \$50 shares in the Westlock Curling rink in 1931.



George and Clara French.

Mr. French passed away in Edmonton in 1957. Their only son, Jack, was killed in action in World War II.

## **The Fricker Family**

**by L. Mary Wagner**

Mr. Fred Fricker came to Canada from England in 1911, age 21 years. He married Bessie Hubbard who had immigrated to Canada the previous year with her parents. They settled in Maymont, Saskatchewan, where Mr. Fricker worked for the railroad. They had a son, Jack, and a daughter, Mary.

In 1925 the Frickers moved to Edmonton and Mr. Fricker worked in the Dawson coal mine for a year, prior to taking up residence in the Village of Clyde in 1926, where he assumed the duties of Bulk Oil and Gas Agent for Imperial Oil Ltd.

It wasn't long before Mr. Fricker started a trucking service from Clyde to Edmonton, then he operated school busses in the district. Assisted greatly by his wife as secretary, driver, serving gas to farmers,

and housewife, he managed these businesses successfully, but with long hours and hard work.

Both were members of the Anglican Church in Clyde, which eventually closed because of no ministerial services, but they immediately joined the United Church. Mrs. Fricker was organist for years and Mr. Fricker and his daughter (when old enough) sang in the choir. I'm sure Mr. Fricker's tremendous voice rings in the ears of many Clyde and district residents. He was only fourteen years old when he was asked to sing his first solo in the famous Wells Cathedral in London, England. They also had their own orchestra and formed a community band, which was very popular throughout the area and in Edmonton.

On Sundays, in the summertime, after church, the children would rush home for lunch, then hurry back to Frickers to board the school bus for Island Lake to spend the afternoon swimming. Mr. Finch and Mr. Fricker taught many children how to swim. One day Mr. Fricker was standing out on the pier laughing his usual hearty laugh, when his upper plate dropped out into the lake. He, along with others, dived and dived, but all in vain; the muddy bottom had swallowed them up!

At this point I have to mention "Granny Hubbard" as she was known to everyone, (Mrs. Fricker's mother). She lived most of the years after her husband died in 1925, with the Fricker family. She was a great help to her daughter in her busy schedule but never complained. She was awarded an engraved gold medal from the Red Cross for her constant knitting during the war. She died in 1953, aged 92 years.

Mrs. Fricker held several positions in the village and community over the years and her home was always open for children who took sick at school and needed a bit of special attention until the bus took them home at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Fricker became sick in 1942 and passed away, aged 54 years, in December, 1944. Mrs. Fricker and son, Jack, who was serving in the Army at the time, carried on the businesses. Jack and his wife, Barbara (McRae of Westlock) moved to Edmonton in 1955 and retained Fricker's Truck Service there until 1977. Mrs. Fricker managed the business at Clyde so capably, she was presented with an engraved gold watch from Imperial Oil. She sold out to Dick Clements in 1965 and moved to Edmonton to be closer to her son and daughter. As her health failed in later years, she entered the Westlock Auxiliary Hospital. Gradually she commenced to play the piano and organ again and enjoyed entertaining for some of the hospital parties. Due to failing eyesight, she was compelled to forfeit all the things she loved to do most, playing the

piano, reading, doing crossword puzzles etc. After a brief illness, she died on June 4, 1979, aged 87 years. Her son Jack, and daughter Mary Wagner, both live in the Edmonton area.

## **The Frigon Story** **by Jeannette Boutin**

The first Frigon generation known as Helaire Frigon who was born on February 22nd. 1874 in Three Rivers, Quebec. He married Delia Levesque in 1875 in St. Anne, Illinois, U.S.A. Delia was born on June 10th. 1853 in Kankakee, Kansas. They had twelve children, Marie, Joseph (Joe), Alfred, Rose (Chapelle), Delcina (Jolivette), Regina (Alice), John, Pierre Clarence (Pete), Marie Louise (Clinton), Philip, and Lucille (Garon).

The following is a letter I received from Helaire and Delia's grandson, Charles, son of Pierre Frigon. The letter relates to the history of the Frigon's.

I Charles Hilaire Frigon lived with my Grandmother Delia for two years 1935 and 1936. My Uncle Joe had returned from B.C. in 1933 and I first met him at my father's home. Uncle Joe had been married and he had one child. She was eight years old and they were staying in a room at my Grandmother's house. Uncle Joe stayed there while working for my father.

I will relate to you some oral history as told to me by my Grandmother Delia Frigon while I was living with her. My Grandfather Hilaire Frigon had a married brother named Charles who was also living with his family at Turton, South Dakota. Charles and his family moved to Los Angeles at about the same time that my Grandfather Hilaire and his wife and ten children came to the Edmonton area in 1900. My Aunt Lucille was the only child born in Canada. I was named Charles by my father after his Uncle Charles whom he had known in South Dakota. My Grandfather and Grandmother were married at a village church at St. Anne, Illinois in 1875. My Grandmother told me that after they were married they lived near a village called Marie, Illinois. My Grandmother had some children in Marie, Illinois before moving west by train to Turton, South Dakota. My Grandmother who was born in 1853 at Kankakee remembered the Civil war in the States in 1861. She had uncles who were in both of the American Armies. Some of Grandmothers' family, Levesque, had moved to the French state, Louisiana before the war and that is why she had some uncles in the Confederate Army (Grey) of the South and some uncles from Illinois who were in the Union Army (Blue) of the North. My Grandmother also related to me that after they had left Illinois that some of her family



named Levesque had changed their name to Bishop because the name Bishop is English for Levesque.

My Grandmother Delia could not read or write and I wrote many letters for her to her family. Grandmother said that her husband Hilaire could read and write. My Grandmother related to me that their first child Marie born near Marie, Illinois died at birth. Then came Uncle Joseph born in 1878, Fred, Frank, Rose who was a twin but the twin died at birth, Dulcina, Regina known as Alice, John, Pierre my father, Marie Louise, Phillip then Lucille. My Uncle Frank was in the American Army in the 1914 to 1918 War. He married a war bride from England and returned to the states after the war and settled in Detroit, Michigan. My mother (Violet) and Father (Pete) myself and my wife (Janette) met my Uncle Frank's wife in 1962 on a visit to Detroit and we also met two sons. I don't remember their names. My Uncle Phillip was in the Canadian Army in the war 1914 to 1918, and returned to the Edmonton area after the war to work for the N.A.R. He worked there until his death in 1945. My Grandmother also related to me that she had heard from her Grandmother that the French people of Illinois had moved back to Canada during the war of 1812 between Canada and the U.S.A. but they then moved back to Illinois after the war and resettled in the same area. Jeanette and I have no evidence or papers or documents that would confirm some of the items related to you. I only hope that some of this information will be of some help to you in trying to trace your family background.

Evangelist Frigon and wife, son of Charles Frigon and brother of my Grandfather Helaire Frigon visited by my father Pierre Frigon and family in the early 1950. My father and Evangelist were small boys in Turton, South Dakota and they spent hours remembering their very young days in South Dakota. Evangelist and wife and family were living at San Mateo, California at the time. Charles Frigon

The following information was related to me by another grandson of Helaire and Delia Frigon, Jule Jolivette, son of Delcina and Maximillian Jolivette.

Helaire and his family moved to Alberta in 1900 and at that time Delcina was fifteen years old. Helaire and his family and two other families came out from South Dakota in covered wagons. The other two families that came with them were Steffes and Fortier. They first settled in Fort Saskatchewan for a few years then Helaire and his family moved to an area in Edmonton which was once called the "Flats". Helaire worked out doing odd jobs until they moved to a farm in the Westlock, Pickardville area. He homesteaded three quarters of land with his sons for some years. The farm is sometimes now called the "Old Steffan Place." Helaire sold his farm to Du-

fresre and moved to Edmonton to the Calder area. They lived there until their death. Helaire died of cancer on July 18th. 1929 at the age of 82. Delia died on December 31st. 1945 at the age of 92. They are both buried in Edmonton. Helaire Frigon is remembered by his grandson, Jule, as a fine just man but very rough and strict. Delia Frigon he remembers as being a nice quiet person.

After Helaire and Delia moved back to Edmonton some of the children continued living in the Westlock area and others moved away as they were married.

**1. Marie Frigon** — Marie died at birth in Maire, Illinois.

**2. Joseph (Joe) Frigon** — Joe married and they had one girl. They settled in Vancouver, B.C. Joe died in 1956 in Edmonton. Remarried had one son Joe — 1949.

**3. Alfred Frigon** — Alfred married and they had one son named Joe. He also settled in Vancouver, B.C.

**4. Frank Frigon** — Frank married and they had three children. They settled in Detroit, Michigan.

**5. Rose Frigon** — Rose married a Chapatel and they had six children. They settled in Seattle, Washington.

**6. Dulcina Frigon** — Dulcina was born on September 4th. 1889 in Maire, Illinois. She married Maximillian Jolivette on June 10th. 1905 in St. Albert, Alberta. They had three boys and one adopted daughter, Hermenegilde (Jule), Ted, Alphege and Juliette. They settled in Westlock. (re. Jolivette History)

**7. Regina Frigon** — Regina was also known as Alice. She married and they settled in Calgary, Alberta.

**8. John Frigon** — John married Bernadette Garon of Pickardville and they had eleven children. They settled in the Pickardville area where John farmed for many years. Their children are Leo who married Frances Manning, Delia who married William Johnstone, Louise who married Ossi Spence, Eva who married Art Rolph, Andre who is single, Philippe, married Margeritte Giroux, Joe married Else Sodke, Albert married Margeritte Slvada, Irene, married Ron Logan, Lawrence married Madge Corbette, and Denis married Bev. Plain.

**9. Pierre Clarence** — Pierre was also called Pete. Pierre was born on November 1st. 1892 in Turton, South Dakota. He helped his father farm in the United States and again when they moved to the Westlock area. He then moved to Legal and did carpenter work then later to Edmonton where he had a draying business. He married Violet Roch of Westlock on February 14th. 1922 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Westlock. Violet was born on August 17th.

1903 in Montreal, Quebec. Both are deceased and are buried in Edmonton. They had eighteen children; **Romeo Clarence** was born on December 9th. 1922 in Pickardville, **Charles Hilaire** was born on March 4th. 1924 in Pickardville. Charles is in the construction business and lives in Edmonton. He married Jannete Louise Breden of Wilton, North Dakota, on May 2nd. 1951 in Edmonton. Jannete was born on March 8th, 1930 in Kirkville, Missouri. They have seven children, Charles James, Jude Urban, Anthony Jerome, Marianne Patricia, Deborah Jane, Jennifer Jo-anne, Christopher. **Henry Jean** was born on August 30th. 1925 in Pickardville. Henry was a bodyman and lived and worked in Edmonton. He married Florence Lamothe on August 15th. 1946 at St. Joachin Church in Edmonton. Florence was born on May 28th. 1928 in St. Edward, Alberta. They had six children, David Peter, Roger Arthur, Annette Jean, Norman Romeo, Marcel Rock, Raymond Romeo. Henry died in February of 1968.

**Gerard Simeion** was born on December 12th. 1927 in Pickardville. **Rock Maximillian** was born on February 2nd. 1928 in Pickardville. **Lucien Pierre** was born on February 22nd. 1931 in Pickardville and died in December of 1955. **Roseanna Lucille** was born on September 20th. 1932 in Pickardville. **Gertrude Alice** was born on August 10th. 1936 in Legal and died on July 13th. 1977. Gertrude married Melvyn Barry in Edmonton. Melvyn was born on September 11th. 1932 in Edmonton. They had four children, Martin, Allan, Jannine, and Ken. **Juliette** was born on April 10th. 1937 in Legal and died in December of 1937. **Theresa Alvera** was born on June 4th. 1938 in Legal. **Jeannette Helena Marie** was born on September 3rd. 1939 in Legal, Alberta. She married Ronald Edward Boos on September 6th. 1958 in Edmonton. They live in Vancouver, B.C. and have three children, Barton Allan, Danette Marie, Lorelie May. **Florence Marguerite** was born on July 29th. 1941 in Legal. **Robert Joseph** was born on September 30th. 1942 in Edmonton. He lived in Dundurn, Saskatchewan and Robert is a member of the Canadian Forces. He married Dianne Stevenson on August 1st. 1964 in Oromocot, N.B. They have two children, Dianna Lynn and Troy Robert. **Laurrette Louise Marie** was born on August 26th. 1944 in Edmonton. She married Paul St. Martin on March 26th. 1971 in Edmonton. Paul is a carpenter and they live in Duffield, Alberta. They have three children, Betty Ann, Daninel Robert, Robert David. And the last **Pierre David** who was born on October 27. 1946 in Edmonton.

**10. Louise Frigon** — Louise married Tom Clinton and they settled in Calgary.

**11. Phillip Frigon** — Phillip married and had one

child. He lived in Edmonton where he worked as a train engineer. He died in 1945 and is buried in Edmonton.

**12. Lucille Frigon** — Lucille married Adelard Garon of Pickardville and they settled in the Pickardville area. They had six children.

## Johnny Frigon by Lena Morin

Johnny Frigon — born December 17, 1888 at Furton South Dakota, U.S.A. 8th son of Hilaire Frigon and Delia Leveque. Deceased September 29, 1968.

Bernadette Garon — born March 18, 1902 at St. Bernard Dorchester, P.Q. 3rd daughter of Adelard Garon and Celinas L'Hueriau.



L to R: Louise Clinton, Pete Frigon, Delia Frigon, Delcina Jolivet, Alice and Joe Frigon.

Johnny came from Furton, South Dakota to Calgary and then came to Edmonton with his parents by wagon in August of 1900. As a young man he worked in the saw-mills, freighted and hauled coal. He took up a homestead in 1906 at Edison, N.W. 10-59-26-W4 and in 1919 moved to Pickardville where he acquired the Alger farm, S.W. 1-59-27.

Bernadette came to Morinville with her parents and then to the homestead in Pickardville on March 19, 1909 at the age of seven, by sleigh. She attended the first Pickardville school (which everyone called the tin school). Bernadette and Johnny were married January 20, 1920, having a double wedding with Adelard Garon Jr. and Lucille Frigon. Their wedding dance was held in the Boulanger house. Johnny and his wife were on this farm from 1920-1967 and brought up all eleven children there. When he bought



the farm it only had forty acres broke and when he quit farming there was just 20 acres left to break. He did all his farming with horses until the forties when he bought a tractor and later a small combine. He did mixed farming, kept horses, cattle, pigs and sheep. Livestock and cream were shipped to Edmonton. Johnny and Bernadette lived in the Alger house for two years and then built a small house at the far end of the farm where water was plentiful. As a little girl I remember when one of my uncle's horses fell in the well and it took many men and a tripod and team to lift the horse out.



Delia Frigon.

In 1957 the children built them a new house but it was never entirely finished for them to enjoy before Johnny took sick. Phone and power were installed in 1958. Some grain was sold at the Pickardville elevator but it was mostly fed to live-stock as they had many pigs. All their business was done in Pickardville. Their older children went to Wood Glen School while the younger ones went to St. Bernadette Pickardville School when it opened.

Their entertainments were visiting, playing cards, house parties, pie and basket socials, picnics and radio.

Bernadette looked after Johnny until her health did not permit it any longer. He then entered the Barrhead Nursing Home in 1967, where he died September 29, 1968. Prior to that son Leo had passed away March 3, 1968. Johnny was buried in Pickardville cemetery and was very dedicated to the church.

Bernadette then sold the farm to son Larry Frigon, where she had resided for forty-seven years. She later took up residence in Meadowcroft Home in Edmonton where she has been for the past eleven years, enjoying her senior years.



Johnny Frigon family, 1957. Back row: Joe, Andy, Delia, Philippe, Eva, Leo, Louise, Albert. Front row: Laurence, Bernadette, Denis, Johnny, Irene.

Out of their eleven children, they also have thirty-three grandchildren and over forty great grandchildren. Leo, Delia, Louise, Eva, Andy, Birth, and Phil all live in Edmonton. Larry is in Singapore, Denis in Australia and Irene in Winnipeg.

## Amadié Gagné

Amadié Gagné was born at Ste. Marguerite, Dorchester, Quebec in 1913, the oldest child in a family of sixteen. The size of the family made it necessary for him to seek work at an early age.

In the fall of 1929 he started out with a friend, Joe Morin, to look for work, and they were fortunate to find jobs with Malbay Co. at Saguenay, working in a lumber camp for \$50.00 a month. Amadié returned to his home in the spring in time to help with the maple syrup harvest. After the harvesting of maple syrup was completed, he returned to the lumber camp, where he worked for the next three years, with no guarantee of wages because the "Great Depression" had started, and there were dozens of men available for every job. For a while he worked in Franklin, near Como Bay, then moved on to Ontario around Kapuskasing and Fort Frances.

In the summer of 1939, he, and two brothers, Alphonse and Eugene, bought a homestead near Opasatica in Northern Ontario. He and Alphonse decided they would like to go West, so they sold their share of the homestead and headed for the Prairies. They worked for a few days on a threshing outfit near Rosetown, Sask. It rained a lot that fall so they moved on to Alberta to visit some relatives in Vimy. While working for their uncles, Alphonse Bilodeau



The house of Amedee Gagne built in 1941.

and Fortuna Bernard, and helping with the harvest there, the challenge of farming in the West drew the interest of Amadié, and he decided that was the life for him.

He became a farmer, and his own boss in the spring of 1940, when he invested all his savings in the SE¼ 30-58-25-W4. On that quarter, a granary was salvaged and made into a home. In 1941, Amadié was married to Alice Bilodeau, and together they raised a family of seven children; Alice, Roger, Raymond, Louis, Jeanne, Yvonne and Juliette.

In 1965, an additional quarter of land was purchased. After 35 years of farming, growing grain,



The seven children of Amedee and Alice Gagne.

making hay, raising chickens, turkeys, pigs and cattle, he sold our farm to retire to a humble home in Legal. Now, all the children are married and they enjoy the eighteen grandchildren!

We have many fond memories of our life in this district — of hardships, toil, rewards, labour, joy and sadness, as our roots were made in Vimy.

## The Herbert (Bert) Gamble Family

written by Bert Gamble

I was born and raised in Derbyshire, in the Midlands of England. My father, Herbert Gamble, was a butcher and later a farm manager. He married my mother, Alice Mellor, who was a widow with two sons, George and Thomas. I was the first to be born of this marriage and later my sisters Mary and then Hilda.



Herbert (Bert) Gamble Family. Jack, Lizzie, Bert and Jim. Seated Mrs. Annie Gillies.

The farm my father managed was owned by an old gentleman, who also owned a butcher shop in Derby. It was a mixed farm and they kept a lot of cattle. In 1927 there was an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the country and all the stock on the farm had to be destroyed. The owner decided he was too old to start over again, so my father decided to join his two brothers, Ernest George and Charles Thomas who had left for Canada about 1910. In March of 1928 my father, mother, two sisters and I (George and Tom decided to stay in England) travelled to Liverpool and boarded the C.P.R. ship, the Montclare, and after an eleven day rough crossing of the Atlantic Ocean, arrived at St. John, New Brunswick. We then took the train for the trip across



Canada to Edmonton. From there we travelled to Clyde and were met there by Uncle Charlie and Jack Edgson and were taken to Pibroch in Uncle Charlie's Model T Ford. We stayed with Uncle Charlie and Aunt May and their family until we were able to purchase a quarter section across the road, the N.W. 6-60-26W of the 4th Meridian.

In 1934, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Gillies, who was then Mr. T. W. Garde's Secretary, (he was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipal District of Pibroch and also Police Magistrate) and I were married. James was born of this marriage.

In 1939 Lizzie and I purchased her father's farm, the N.E. 18-60-26 W of the 4th Meridian and in 1945, due to a dust allergy I had, we sold this farm, which is now owned by Gorman Noel, and moved to Victoria, B.C. where we both worked for two and a half years. We then decided to move back to Alberta. We bought a farm at Namao, close to the Airport and in 1950 the Department of Transport needed the land to expand the Airport, and we had no choice but to sell to them.

We heard the original James J. Thomson farm, the N.E. 30 and S.W. 32-60-26W of the 4th Meridian was for sale, so we bought it and moved back to the Westlock district in November, 1950. Our son, Jim, took over the farm in 1975 and lives there with his wife, Linda and their three daughters, Sandra, Lorene and Barbara.

We now live in Westlock.

In 1952, our chosen son, Jack, arrived at our home. He is now married and with his wife Jean and their two sons, Brian and Terry, live on an acreage east of Sherwood Park.

Mother and Dad retired from their farm and moved to Edmonton to live with my sister Mary. Dad passed away in 1960 and Mother in 1968.

George passed away in England, but Tom is still living over there.

Mary and Hilda are retired and are now living in a Senior Citizens' High Rise Apartment in Port Alberni, B.C.

## **Nell and Ern Gamble**

**written by William C. Gamble (Son)**

Ernest George (Ern) Gamble and wife Ellen Mary (Nell) Gamble arrived in Edmonton from Derbyshire, England in the spring of 1911, with two sons Ernest George (Ernie) 18 months of age and William Charles (Bill) 6 months.

Earlier arrivals included Ern's brother Charles T. (Charlie) with his father William, also his cousins Ernest and Fred and their father John F. Gamble. Incidentally Charlie is celebrating his 97th birthday at the Arrowsmith Lodge in Parksville, B.C. on June 14th.



The E. G. Gamble family. Ernest Sr., with Mary in front. Nellie with Margaret on knee, Ernie, Bill and Wm. Sr.

On October 3rd, 1911 Ern Gamble paid the requisite \$10.00 homestead fee to Sub-Agent John A. Edgson at the Edison Office in respect to the N.E. of Section 1 Township 61 Range 27 West of the 4th Meridian.

With the assistance of relatives and neighbors Wesley Dean, Jim Irvine and Jim McIntosh a well was dug to provide a water supply and a log house was erected on the homestead, enabling Nell and the two babies to move in.

As there was no means of livelihood in the Pibroch (Sunnibend Post Office) area, Ern of necessity obtained employment on the railway at Bickerdike, west of Edmonton, Alberta.

Eventually brush was cleared away for a garden patch in which to grow a few vegetables.

Every year, prior to the onslaught of winter, several neighbors would journey the 60 miles to Edmonton for a year's grubstake — a supply of essential foods including flour, rice, sugar, tea, baking powder etc. as well as coal oil for lamps and lanterns and candles, clothing and so on. Three days were required by the ox team to arrive in the city, one day to purchase a wagon box load of supplies and 3 days for the return journey.

As time went by Ern's railway earnings provided the wherewithal to pay for clearing land, breaking up the sod and preparing a seed bed for oats, wheat and barley. Crops were then grown on the share basis, two thirds to the renter and one third to the land owner. Eventually when the homestead produced a crop of wheat prior to the early fall frosts, a sleigh box load of wheat was taken into the Westlock Flour

Mill during the winter months, providing bran and shorts for the farm animals as well as breakfast cereals and flour for the human beings.

Ern Gamble proved up his homestead by erecting out buildings for the cows and pigs as well as putting up fences around the 158 acres, plus cross fencing and on March 21, 1919 he received Duplicate Certificate of Title covering the N.E. 1-61-27 West of 4th Meridian. In the meantime three daughters had been born in the original log house, with the assistance of neighbor mid-wives, Mary in June 1914, Margaret in October 1915 and Hilda in December 1918.



E. G. Gamble children. Bill, Ernie, Betty McLean, Hilda, Mary and Margaret, and Wilfred Gamble in front.

Ern continued to work on the railway for years at Busby, Dapp and finally near home at Pibroch, in order to maintain a home for Nell and five children, as well as slowly transforming a bush homestead into a small farm. Eventually the adjoining S.E. Quarter of Section 1 Township 61 Range 27 West of the Fourth Meridian was purchased from a non-resident widow to round out a half section.

In 1916 the first school was opened in the settlement of Pibroch. A building erected of squared logs by the local settlers not only served as a school but served as a meeting place for many groups, business meetings, social events, church services and Sunday School classes. Ernie aged seven and Bill aged six were among the kids attending classes in the newly formed school district. The first two young female teachers did not stick it out for more than a few months each, so the officials arranged to engage a local homesteader's wife, Mrs. John (Mercy) Roddick as a temporary teacher on a permit. As years went by a one roomed frame school house was erected two miles north east of the Hamlet of Pibroch and Mercy Roddick taught there for many years.

Nell was a trustee on the three member school board for some years and at the time was very active in church work.

During 1925 Nell and all five children were quarantined with scarlet fever from June 30th to Labor Day, the whole of the school summer holidays. Luckily a brave young neighbor, unafraid of germs, lived in for several weeks assisting with the patients. Unfortunately shortly after all six patients had recovered from the scarlet fever, Margaret aged ten, while undergoing tonsilectomy in Dinwoodie's hospital in Westlock contracted poliomyelitis and a few days following surgery passed away — the first known polio death in the Westlock area from this dreaded new scourge. Nell was devastated by the death and never fully recovered from the shock.

Ernie was the first local lad to attend Vermilion Agricultural School classes for a couple of winter sessions, and then put his knowledge to good use on the family farm, taking over when his mother and dad retired to Vancouver Island, due to ill health in 1942. Nell passed away in Duncan, B.C. in 1958 and Ern in 1965. Ernie left the farm, ran an Auto Court in Shawnigan Lake, B.C. for a time and died in Victoria, B.C. in 1969.

Bill took grades ten and eleven in the newly built Westlock Consolidated School in 1925 and 1926 under Principal Mr. Fred Lynn and assistant Mrs. Vera Maulton. He then attended Edmonton Normal School in 1927, taught school for a few years before switching over to municipal work. Following service in the R.C.A.F. he was employed by D.V.A. in Vancouver, where he retired in 1975.

After graduating from high school Mary obtained employment in the local general stores, Nettleton Bros. in Pibroch, McTavish's Goods Store in Westlock and Murfitt's in Pibroch until she married Frank Coward, a grain buyer. After years of employment with the Board of Grain Commissioners in Vancouver, Montreal and Calgary, Frank retired in the chinook city with wife Mary.

Hilda took three years nursing training at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton and after a stint overseas in the W.W. 2 nursed at Duncan, B.C. where she married a woodsman, Ron Peterson. Hilda and Ron reside in Richmond, B.C. she keeping her hand in nursing, being employed in a doctor's office and Ron still working with timber.

### **Experiences and Anecdotes**

In those early years one fall day the Gambles were invited to the Wendell Short's (first postmistress at Sunnibend) home for dinner. Nell had her first introduction to Canadian head cheese. Imagine her embarrassment when she picked up a slice of head cheese from a floral platter, thinking it to be a slice of cake dessert.

Away back then, Ern had a painful accident one Sunday evening just as he and the boys, Ernie and



Bill, were leaving cousin Ern's adjoining homestead. The dog came running up as he was standing at the draw rails saying goodbye, hit him on the leg, snapping a bone. Imagine the excruciating pain suffered by Ern in journeying by oxen and wagon over roads with numerous spots corduroyed with logs all the way to Dr. Phillips' home in Swallowhurst.

Nell with sons Ernie and Bill religiously attended Anglican church services summer and winter in Christ Church three miles from the homestead. Most mid winter Sundays, even though the small folding portable organ was brought right up beside the huge tin air tight heater containing a roaring wood fire, the organ would seldom thaw out in time to enable the organist Mrs. Dean, with ice cold fingers, to play the closing hymn.

I think it could be called the first Co-op in Pibroch east when Ed and Jim VanAlstine, one summer in those early days collected \$5.00 prepayment from each homesteader who would have stacks of grain to thresh in the fall. A down payment was made on a small threshing machine, the first for miles around, and Ern became the VanAlstine Brothers' first feeder man for the stack threshing season which lasted till near Christmas.

Ern told the story more than once of threshing dinner at the Laun home in Sunniebend when Ed VanAlstine plastered a whopping slice of roast beef with Keen's mustard, thinking it was his favorite French's prepared mustard. First silence, then a few choice swear words and then tears from Ed's eyes.

At one time Ern did enjoy a pipe of McDonald's plug tobacco occasionally, but during the worst of those depression years he gave up this luxury costing 10¢ a plug, saying every penny was required to purchase groceries for the family.

### **Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gander by Annie (Gander) Price**

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gander and their six daughters emigrated from England to Canada in 1919, the year of the hard winter, when potatoes froze in the garden in early October. A carpenter by trade, Charles soon found work and helped to build the first Edmonton Public Library and many other buildings. He also worked for the Big 4 Van and Storage Company for many years. Later on, he built a large garage and went into business on his own, building moving vans. He built the first van that McCosham Van Lines used, and also built the first bus carrying passengers to Evansburg.

During the "Depression" it was impossible to get work, so in 1931 they moved out to Pickardville, to the SW¼ 27-58-27-W4, which Charles had owned since 1926. He had operated a small farm in England

so had some knowledge of farming although the methods were very different.

In those days there were no telephones, but it was surprising how soon the young lads of the district heard that Clarice, Annie and Ruby Gander were visiting their parents for a week or so. To mention a few, there was Bill Price, Albert Smith, young George Wilkinson and Maurice Lambert, who soon came to pay them a friendly visit. They escorted the girls to a few dances and accidentally (on purpose) tipped us out of the open sleigh-box, just to make the journey more exciting. With hot stones, heated in the oven, to keep our feet warm, and heavy robes to cover us, no one suffered from the cold, starry nights to and from the dances. I remember the dance at Busby especially, where there was just one violin for the music, and the violinist played "When the Bloom is on the Sage" all night!

We girls had been to very few dances, so it didn't matter whether we did a waltz or fox trot, we all had a good time anyway.

It was very pleasant to ride in the sleigh, with the bells on the horses ringing, and the squeaking of the sleigh runners on the frosty snow.

Mr. and Mrs. Gander soon found that farming was too hard for them at their age, so Bill Price rented the farm from them in 1933, and they moved back to Edmonton, where Charles worked at Northwest Industries, repairing aeroplanes until his retirement.

That wasn't the end of the story, though, because Bill Price took a fancy to one of the girls, and in 1935 he persuaded Annie to leave the bright lights and conveniences of the city, and they were married March 16, 1935. He didn't think much of "batching" anyway!

Annie soon realized that the only running water there was, was when she ran with a pail of water, but it didn't take long to adjust to farm life. The rest of the story is under the Price family history.

Mr. and Mrs. Gander lived to celebrate their 67th wedding anniversary, and both died within a month of each other in 1967.

Albert Smith now owns the original quarter.

### **Mr. and Mrs. James Gannon**

James and Margaret Gannon both came from Roscommon, County Cork, Ireland. Margaret had become acquainted with three Gannon sisters in an Irish convent and the four young women came out to North Dakota, where the Gannon sisters' brother, James, lived. Margaret and James came to Canada in 1910. They were married in Calgary, came up to Edmonton and settled on a homestead five miles west of Vimy. They lived in a log house for several years

but in 1923 moved into a large, two-story house which became a landmark for many years.

Mrs. Gannon was a very little woman, under five feet tall, but was a huge woman in pluck, perseverance and cheerfulness.



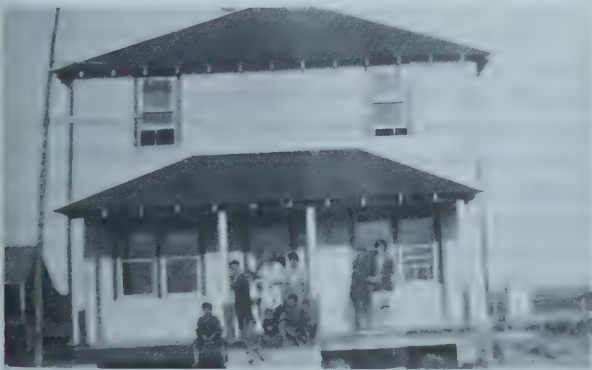
James Gannon about 1927.

James died in 1929, leaving Margaret with eight children; Eilien barely three years old. Social Assistance was unknown then, and anyway, "sure, Margaret had two hands and the brains the good Lord had given her." Charity never entered her head.

Her family were too young to farm so she sold the farm, but through an unfortunate swindle Margaret saw "nary a penny."

She then moved to Westlock and did housework by the day — eight, ten or twelve hour days — for fifty cents a day.

The children became self-supporting at a very early age, doing odd jobs after school and on Saturdays. Margaret's motto was "when the going gets tough, the tough get going."



Gannon family outside their home, about 1927.

Even in her retirement years she busied herself with doing beautiful crocheted tablecloths and fine embroidery.

Mrs. Gannon died in 1980 and will be remembered as an example of devotion to duty, determination, hard work and cheerfulness in spite of seemingly insurmountable difficulties.

## The Gardam Family

Maurice George Hart Gardam was born in Yorkshire, England on May 20, 1887. As a young man, after completing his formal education, he served as an apprentice to his father in the legal profession. Following this, about 1911, he with three friends left England to seek fame and fortune in Australia. They planned to meet "Down Under" after traveling there by four separate routes.

Maurice's journey, via North America, ended in Wynyard, Saskatchewan where in 1912 he met Anne Jane Kyle Megaw, a school teacher, who with her sister May, had immigrated to Canada from Northern Ireland about 1910.

Anne, born December 12, 1884 in County Antrim, Northern Ireland was the daughter of a schoolmaster and attended Trinity College in Dublin to earn her teaching certificate.

Maurice and Anne were married on August 15, 1914 and later moved to Swift Current, Saskatchewan where Maurice passed his Bar examinations. In 1917 during a visit by Anne to her parents' home, Robert Frederick, their first son was born on May 28 in Northern Ireland.

In 1919 Maurice and Ann with their son Bob moved to Westlock where Maurice set up his law practice and subsequently was appointed as the first Clerk of the village. His first office was on (then) First Street in the annex to a building that housed the Westlock Witness weekly newspaper. Needing more room, he moved a few years later to Main Street in a small building next door to the Pool Hall.

The first Gardam Home was a small house that was the original Wheatley home on the triangular lot at the corner of (then) Third Street and the Base Line. In nearly 1920, this house was sold and moved to make room for construction of a new larger home, one that still occupies the same site and was the Gardam home for the duration of their life in Westlock.

The small house was moved to First Street, one block east of Main Street, across from the Creamery. It was occupied first by Mr. and Mrs. Roch and later by their daughter Jeanne and her husband Beau St. John.

During construction of their new house, the Gardams rented a house on the Base Line owned by Mrs.



McEachern, mother of Mrs. Dios Smith. While living there, their second son, Clive Maurice, was born on March 10, 1920. He was baptized in St. Andrew's (now St. Phillip's) Anglican Church.

Maurice was very active in the Westlock community for many years holding the position of treasurer of the Agricultural Society and a member of that organization's building committee for the construction of the original Hockey arena. He was closely involved in the formation of the first Curling Club in Westlock, and an ardent curler. He served for two years as president of the Sports Association and was for many years a member of the Westlock Consolidated School District School Board with Archie Brown and Jim Hunter. He was also a willing volunteer in many ways in the service of St. Phillip's Church.

In the late 1920's, Mr. Robert Wheatley, the next door neighbor to the Gardams, purchased and installed an electric generator in a shed behind his home. At Mr. Wheatley's suggestion, the Gardam house was wired at essentially the same time as the one next door so these two became the first electrically illuminated houses in the village.

As years progressed, Mr. Wheatley continued to expand his system until he served electric power to anyone in the village who wanted or could afford it from a larger generating station located more centrally in the village at a building later to become the Armoury for the Westlock detachment of the 19th Alberta Dragoons (N.P.A.M.) It was subsequently expanded to house the village fire engine and water tower.

Mr. Wheatley's electric company gave limited service, and old timers will recall the lights going out at midnight, as the owner of this one man company went home to bed, not coming on again until dusk the next day.

Maurice, throughout his years in Westlock, still possessed the pioneering desire for new experiences that took him from England originally. Although never accomplishing his Australian goal, he managed to sooth his itching feet by travels in Alberta's undeveloped areas.

In 1928 he, along with Mr. Harris, the local Ford dealer successfully completed the feat of being the first men to drive a car from Edmonton to Jasper. Driving a Model A Ford, they bumped over ties abandoned on the Grand Trunk Northern railroad bed, laid planks to reinforce deteriorated trestle bridges and on at least one occasion struggled to ford astream in order to reach their destination.

In another instance, about 1936, he drove to Peace River accompanied by his son Clive, Mr. Sidney Daly and his daughter Doreen. That road for

many miles of the journey was nothing more than rutted wagon tracks.

Anne Gardam during those early years in Westlock spent most of her time as a wife and mother, raising her two sons. She did find time in later years to be involved in Ladies Aid societies and in helping in the annual musical festivals of the 1930's. She, along with Maurice, was an avid bridge player. The bridge parties during that period were one of the main social activities in the village.

Bob Gardam was always known as a great sports enthusiast and supporter although his active participation was limited due to a problem with his feet. For years he was the official scorekeeper for Westlock baseball teams. He was a member of Westlock's first Boy Scout troop formed and led by the Rev. E. L. Williams of St. Phillips Church.

In 1937 Bob entered Trinity College and Seminary at the University of Toronto where he studied for his chosen field of the ministry. He and his wife Shirley (nee Landon of Newboro, Ont.) were married in 1945 and raised three sons and a daughter.

After serving in numerous churches in Ontario, Michigan and New York State he retired in January 1982. He and Shirley now reside in Plant City, Florida.

Clive's adolescent years centered mostly on various outdoor activities, including Cubbing, Scouting, baseball and hockey among the many diverse means of entertainment available to young people in Westlock. At the age of eighteen he enlisted as a "Saturday night soldier" in the 19th Alberta Dragoons serving under Captain Roy Merryweather.

In 1939 Clive entered the University of Alberta to study Electrical Engineering, interrupting these studies in 1941 to enlist in the First Canadian Survey Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. After two months training in Ontario, he was assigned to a Regiment that was stationed in England. Other war-time service included assignment in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, Belgium and Holland.

Clive returned to the U of A in 1946 and transferred to McGill University in Montreal where he graduated in 1948.

In May, 1947, Clive married Irene Ursel of Stony Plain, a niece of Westlock's beautician, Florence Goebel. Clive and Irene have one son and one daughter, Kent and Kyle, living in Toledo, Ohio where Clive is Director of Electrical Engineering for the Toledo Edison Company.

The Gardam family could no longer refer to Westlock as "Home" when in 1943, Maurice and Anne sold their house and moved east, residing consecutively in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and finally

back to Ottawa where Maurice worked for the Federal government.

Maurice died in Ottawa in February, 1952 and Anne in Toronto in October, 1959.

## The Garde Family

Thomas W. Garde, his wife and daughter Marie came to the district in 1914. They settled on the S.E. 3-61-26-west of the 4th — this quarter was available as the previous occupant was doing time in jail for making counterfeit coins.

At this time Clyde was the closest trading centre. It was here they travelled for supplies. After one of these trips, they had filled their lamps, not noticing some spilled coal oil on the floor, a dropped match

also good with the “22” and bagged some marauding coyotes and skunks. They did have the interest of the farmer at heart and both were staunch supporters of George MacLachlan and the U.F.A. party. The U.F.A. Local formed by the farmers was the chief source of social life. Meetings were held in the homes, after which the evening was spent in fun and games. The Woodland U.F.A. Hall was built on land donated by the Gardes. Many good times were enjoyed in this hall — the young folks had a chance to learn the different dance steps with good teachers like Simon Gower. A high light of the evening was a square dance called by Art Edgson. Bachelor neighbors who stopped by often were, Simon Gower, Ernie Gaston, Ernie and Leslie Sheppy, Hugh McGregor, Donald Miller, Ed VanAlstine, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Campbell were very dear friends.



Marie (Garde) Roddick, Simon Gower and Peggie (Garde) McGillivray.



Thomas W. Garde, standing in front of the Municipal office in Pibroch.

and in no time the log shack was ablaze. Not too much was saved and many personal treasures from the Old Country were lost. Very kind neighbors the “Calderwoods” took them in. With the help of neighbors and a carpenter, Mr. Couturier, a new house was built. A daughter Peggie was born a few years later.

Mr. Garde a former banker, soldier and policeman was not cut out to be a farmer. Mrs. Garde and Marie adapted much better, so to them fell the chore of milking and tending the stock. Mrs. Garde was

Mr. Garde took on the duties of Sec. Treas. of the Municipality — a small building served as an office. He was appointed J.P. and court was also held in this building. A safe was purchased for the office in time. It was always a source of great interest to Peggie — one day unbeknown to her Dad she couldn't resist turning the big knob, of course it locked tight and the combination was safe inside. Mr. Garde had to walk to Westlock and make a phone call to Edmonton for the combination — needless to say Peggie never touched the safe again.

The Pibroch School #3410 opened in 1922, it was situated 1 mile north and 1 mile east of the present town site. This location was chosen as it was the middle of the district at that time. Mr. Garde was Sec. Treas. for many years. Mrs. Mercy Roddick was the



first teacher, she taught grades 1 to 10, with an enrollment of 40 pupils at times. She was an excellent teacher who believed in thoroughly teaching the 3 R's. Many good Christmas concerts were enjoyed under her direction. She had a long successful teaching career.

In 1926 the Gardes sold their farm to Nelson Letts and his bride the former Agnes Calderwood. They purchased lots from Alex Irvine whose farm was now in the town site of Pibroch. A house was built, also a Municipal Office on an adjoining lot, this too served as a court house. Mr. Garde was appointed Police Magistrate. Their house was built by Wyn Davies and Ed VanAlstine. A few years later Mr. Davies built the first garage in Pibroch and with his family lived above it. He also had the first gas pump (Imperial). During the depression he decided to find a warmer clime — constructed a type of caboose on a truck and moved his family to B.C., thus pioneering the camper.

When Mr. Adair gave up the Post Office Mrs. Garde took over the duties and it was operated from her home. She was an original member of the Ladies' Aid and active in the church. She enjoyed the Post Office, as she liked meeting people. This was not to be for long — ill health took her from the family and it was a great loss when she passed away in 1933.

Mr. Garde continued to serve in his different positions. He was a fair minded man, completely dedicated to his work. During the depression when tax money was short he took a cut in his salary to help out. Some of the early councillors were, W. Wightman, Alex McGregor, Jack Fraser, Mosey Dusseault, John Lagasse.

Lizzie (Gillies) Gamble joined him in the office, first as a court stenographer, later a full time employee of the M.D. When the M.D. of Westlock was formed and the office moved to Westlock they continued for a few years. Mr. Garde retired in 1945 and passed away 1 year later.

Marie graduated from the Royal Alex School of Nursing in 1928. She had a long career in nursing, first with the Public Health and many years in the Westlock Hospital. She was presented with her gold cap at the Royal Alex Re-union, 1978, marking 50 years. She married John Roddick in 1940, they had 4 children, Byron, Keith, Valerie, Adrian. Byron died in 1965, the result of a serious accident.

Peggie was Postmaster for 25 years, moved to Westlock and continued with the Federal Gov't until her retirement in 1981. She married Gordon McGillivray in 1942, they have 2 sons, Grant and Neal and 1 grandson Alec.

## **Adelard Garon Sr.**

Adelard Garon — born December 30, 1865, St. Bernard, Dorchester, P.Q. Son of Cyprien Garon and Marceline Goulet. Deceased February 19, 1945, in Pickardville.

Celina L'Heureux — born October 14, 1872, St. Marie, Beauce, P.Q. Daughter of Joseph L'Heureux and Philomine Bilodeau. Deceased October 6, 1954, in Pickardville.

Adelard and Celina were married January 8th, 1889 at St. Marie Beauce, Quebec. They had a family of eleven children, four of whom died as infants. The other seven living were Emeline (Mrs. Felix Goupe), Evelina (Mrs. Wilfred Boulanger), Adelard Jr. married Lucille Frigon. Cyprien married Alice Racine, Bernadette married Johnny Frigon, Amedee married Exillia Beaudette, Philippe married Gibette Noel. Adelard and Celina had forty-five grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

Adelard and Celina farmed at St. Bernard, P.Q. until 1901 when Adelard left for Dawson and to the Klondike Gold Rush for six years. He returned from Dawson to meet his wife and family who, in the meantime had moved to Manchester, N.Y., U.S.A. to work in the mills where her brother Napoleon was employed. The family moved out west to Morinville, Alberta with the L'Heureux family, where they lived for a year before moving to Pickardville to the homestead on March 19, 1909 by sleighs. He filed on the N.E. 16-58-27-W4. They lived with Wilfred Boulanger who had built a large house on the adjoining quarter, until they could build a house of their own that summer. The house is still the same one that Sylve Garon, the grandson, is living in at present. The family was brought up in Pickardville. The children went to the Arvilla Brooklyn School when it opened in 1910 and later to Pickardville Tin school in 1912 when they moved into their own house. Adelard Sr. acquired the Boulanger farm N.W. 16-58-27-W4 in 1916 as the family left for Merritt B.C. He later acquired ½ section S.W. 20-58-27-W4 and S.E. 20-58-27-W4. Adelard Jr. was called for the army and went overseas till the end of the war. In 1920 Adelard Jr. sold his homestead and bought his father's ½ section. Adelard Sr. then moved on to S.E. 20-58-27-W4 (now the Albert Morin farm). He moved the house and barn from the Boulanger farm to S.E.20 as there were no buildings on the place. They resided here till the fall of 1921 and then they moved to Edmonton where he worked for the railway at the round house in Calder until his retirement. In 1920 Adelard Sr. sold the S.W. 20-58-27-W4 to his son Cyprien where he lived till 1929. Once Adelard Sr. retired, he and his wife sold their property in Edmonton and moved back to Pickardville into the

village where he bought a small house in 1942. He lived there until his passing in 1945. His wife Celina lived by herself at first but later a granddaughter, Jeanne Garon, stayed with her until she married in 1949.

In 1950 son Cyprien and Alice sold their farm, to live with his Mother until her passing in October 1954. Both Adelard and Celina were buried in Pickardville in the St. Benedict grave yard. They were both involved in parish duties as well as community.

### **Adelard Garon Jr.**

Adelard Garon, born at St. Bernard P.Q.

Son of Adelard Sn. and Celina L'Heureux.

Lucille Frigon, born December 26, 1902.

Daughter of Elaire Frigon and Delia Levesque  
Deceased spring of 1980.

Adelard Garon came from the province of Quebec with his parents at the age of eleven to Morinville, Alberta where they resided for one year prior to moving to Pickardville with the family to the homestead N.E. 16-58-27-W-4. He got little education being the eldest of the family, his help was required at an early age.

He was called to the army in world war one in 1917 and he remained until the war ended. He had homesteaded the N.E.-9-59-27-W4 and he later sold it and bought his father's half section N.E.-16-58-27-W4 and N.W.-16-58-27-W4 where he remained until his retirement.

He married Lucille Frigon in January 20, 1920 and out of this marriage there were six children. Sylva still living on the Grandfather's homestead in Pickardville, Raymond married Mona Aubin, lives in Valley View and has five children of which two are twin boys. Jeannette (Mrs. Edgar Guimont) lives in Edmonton. Helen (Mrs. Robert St. Onge) lives in Edmonton and has two children. Lynne lives in Calgary. Rose (Mrs. D. Anderson) lives in Edmonton. Adelard has seven grand children and three great-grand children.

Beside farming he did carpenter work for years and later worked with his son Sylva. When Lucille left home it then became a Father and son farming operation. A piggery was built and they went into a hog operation on a large scale for a number of years until Adelard retired. Sylva later went out of the hog business and just farmed and did carpenter work.

Adelard and son Sylva travelled by car several times to Eastern Canada and the States, as well as to B.C. and northern areas. On his retirement Adelard bought a house in Edmonton where he stayed for five years. He later sold the house to Sylva as well as the farms. Due to ill health he moved to the Legal Lodge for awhile until his health did not permit him to stay

there any longer. He then went to St. Albert to the Youville Home where he still resides at the age of 84. His health still permits him to go and visit his children.

### **Amedee Garon**

**by Lena Morin**

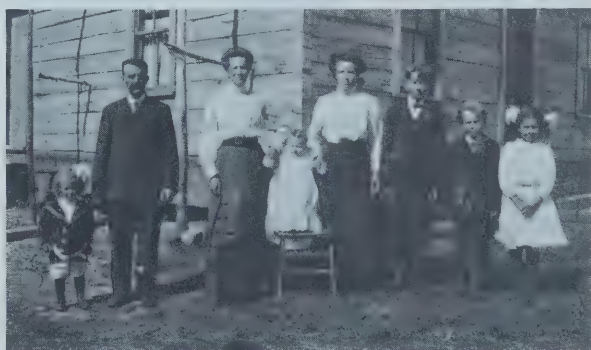
Amedee Garon

Born August 14, 1908 in Morinville Alberta

3rd son of Adelard Sr. Garon and Celina L'Heureux

Deceased October 29, 1974.

Amedee came from Morinville as a nine month old baby with his parents to the homestead at Pickardville. He grew up here and went to the Pickardville school with brother Philippe. At the age of thirteen his parents sold the farm and moved to Edmonton where he went to school to grade eight. He then came back to the farm in the summer holidays to stay with his brother Cype. He later acquired Cype's farms in 1929. He got married to Exillia Beaudette in November of 1931. Exillia originally came from Saskatchewan with her parents to Beauvalon, Alberta. She came to work in Pickardville where she met Amedee.



The Garon family. L to R: Amadee, Adelarde, Celina, Phillippe, Emeline, Ed, Cyprien and Bernadette. In front of their homestead house.

Amedee farmed, had horses to farm with until the late forties and then went to the tractors and bigger equipment. They rented land when the boys were home beside what they had of their own. He also did a lot of custom work such as plowing, breaking land, swathing and combining. They also kept a lot of cattle and milked several cows in later years until his passing in October 1974. Amedee and Exillia both were very sports minded and many of their children followed their footsteps.

From this marriage there were six children. Victor married Larrana L'Abbe and they have four children and live in Slave Lake. Wilfred married Jeanette Victoor, they have five children. Eugene is single,



lives in Australia. Doris is single, lives in Edmonton, Roland is single and lives in Pickardville. Leonard married Linda Burfield, they have two children and live in Pickardville. Exillia is still residing on the farm. She has remodelled her house since Amedee passed away and is enjoying life on the farm with her children and grandchildren.

## Cyprien Garon

Cyprien Garon

Born February 25, 1900, at St. Bernard, Dorchester P.Q.

2nd son of Adelard Garon and Celina L'Heureux

Deceased November 19, 1973

Alice Racine

Born July 6, 1906, at Strathcona, south Edmonton

Daughter of Mitchell Racine and Antonia LeBlanc

Cype, as many called him, came to Pickardville with his parents from Morinville on March 19, 1909, where they had resided for one year. He attended school at the Arvilla Brooklyn in 1910 for two years and then went to the Pickardville tin school in 1912,



Cyprien Garon family. Jeanne, Cyprien, Alice, Louis, Paul, Hector in front.

where Reggie Smith's buildings are at now. Mr. Crawford was his first teacher, and some of the pupils he attended with were Philips, Wileys, Tallys, Marleres, Fradettes and many others. He grew up in Pickardville and as a young man he played the violin at many house parties and dances. When the roads permitted Cype travelled a lot with his bicycle.

In 1920 he acquired a farm from his father, the S.W. 20-58-27-W4 and remained there till 1929 when he sold his farm to his brother Amedee. In September 1925 he married Alice Racine. Alice came with her parents as a three week old baby from Strathcona by wagon. They too were 1906 Pioneers.

She attended school at the age of four as they were one pupil short to open the Racine School, named after her Father. She said only three months of school was taught by Miss Cantin the first year. Her later teachers were Sullivan, Against and Standard. She was only a girl of eleven when her father was killed by a dynamite explosion. She grew up with a step-father called Joe Labelle and remained home to help until she married.

Cype built a small shack when he first bought the farm and later built a log house before he got married and had all the interior finished in V joint. He broke and cleared land by hand until he sold the farm. They kept horses and did all the farming with them. They also milked cows and she sold butter and later shipped cream. Grain was sold at the local elevator in Pickardville and all their business was done there as



Cyprien Garon family. L to R: Paul, Cyprien, Alice, Keanne, Hector and Louis.

well. Machinery at the time was shared amongst the brothers. In 1929 he bought Fred Valiquette's house in Pickardville, lived in it for three years then rented it for a restaurant. They moved across the street next the United Church and operated a butcher shop for two years. About 1935-36 the Valiquette house burnt down on Hallowe'en night while still a restaurant. Cype built a new house on the same lot, which they lived in till 1945 then sold it to Tom Ouilette. He then bought the N.E. 21-58-27 W4 from Leonard St. Louis. He stayed there five years and sold it to Mr. Frazer and returned to the town of Pickardville to look after his Mother until her passing in October 1954. He was a well known carpenter and built several homes in the district such as the J. Nadeau, H. St.

Louis, Pete and Marcel Deshoux, A. Morrin, J. La-belle and many others. He carpentered for 25¢ an hour for years. Before retiring he remodelled his Mother's home in 1965. He also fired the Catholic Church stove from 1929 until they got the gas in 1949. He was also the parish grave digger for years all done with pick and shovel. Cype built the Manger for the church for every Christmas, which many missed after he retired.

The last two years of his life he was confined to his home until his wife could no longer look after him. He was then taken to the Auxiliary Hospital in Westlock until his passing November 19, 1973. Funeral and interment were in the St. Benedict Parish in Pickardville.

Alice sold her little home in Pickardville in 1977 as she no longer could look after it and moved to Edmonton to the Old Age Home at Meadowcroft. She lived in Pickardville for 71 years but is now enjoying her later years at the Home.

Out of this marriage there were five children. Louis married Margaret Walch and has five children. Paul married Alfreda Ouillmet and they have three children. Jeane married Arnold Forest and they have four children. Hector married Jeannie Sylvie and has one child. They all live in Edmonton except Paul who lives at the coast in B.C. Alice has thirteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

### **Daphne Garrison, A Friend to all**

Daphne Garrison was born on April 15, 1894, in southern Illinois, the first child of Lelah and William Garrison. A precocious child, she was able to read before going to school, and throughout her life devoted many happy hours to reading and writing. By her ninth birthday the family included three brothers and her parents had decided to move to a new frontier. On her birthday in 1903 they left Illinois. After some weeks in Edmonton they proceeded fifty miles



Daphne Garrison.

north and west to the homestead, travelling with horses and wagon, a two day trip. Later that summer Mr. Garrison bought a quarter half a mile south of Edison corner and moved his family to the farm which was their home until he died. Daphne then owned the farm and made her home there during 18 years of her retirement.

In 1905 the first school was opened briefly and by 1907 classes were held on a fairly regular basis. In 1910 Daphne started High School at the Strathcona Collegiate Institute in Edmonton. In 1911 she attended Normal School in Calgary and in February, 1912, began teaching career which was to end officially in 1959. Her first school was Hazel Bluff, and she taught also in several other schools in that area, including Clover Valley, Poplar Knoll and Edison, her home school district.

Later she attended the University of Alberta, graduating with first class honors in Philosophy ( a Bachelor of Arts degree) in 1922. Thereafter she taught in high school, her longest term of service being as a teacher of Science at Vegreville from 1935 to 1959. After retirement to the farm at Westlock she substituted on several occasions for teachers in the junior and senior high schools.

Daphne Garrison's life was notable for unselfish interest in others. Her enthusiasm for learning and her encouragement were a constant inspiration to other members of the family and to her many students.

She was a dedicated and imaginative teacher, her wit and humor adding spice to the regular fare.

Throughout her life Daphne gave freely of her time and strength. In the influenza epidemic of 1918 she was a volunteer nurse after her own recovery. For some years she served as a leader in the Girl Guides. During World War II she worked with St. John's Ambulance. She helped organize and produce a news letter for Vegreville service men. Politics were an abiding interest and she served her party energetically in several campaigns. (Several years ago Chateline magazine published her article on facilities for the elderly in Alberta).

Daughter of pioneers and a real pioneer herself, Daphne recorded many aspects of those rugged and challenging days. After moving to Edmonton in 1977 she continued this work and was completing such an account when stricken with her final illness. She died on February 13, 1979.

After Daphne's death, her sister, Doris, completed the various writings Daphne had prepared, into a very interesting book of pioneer stories. This book is available at many book outlets and schools throughout Alberta. The book, "Edison the Way it Was" is a tribute to the memory of Daphne Garrison.



## William Garrison

William and Lelah Garrison and their four children left their home in southern Illinois in April, 1903, their destination Edmonton, Alberta. As a young man Mr. Garrison had spent several years in Arizona and New Mexico. Mrs. Garrison's family had tried farming in Dakota. The Canadian Government's widely distributed literature about the 'Last Best West' found eager readers in the Garrisons, who believed that a new country with its opportunities and challenges would offer a better future to their family. They both had happy memories of their youthful experiences in the 'Wild West' and a touching belief in the advantages of pioneering.

The Garrisons spent some weeks in a tent in Strathcona (near 99 Street and Whyte Avenue) while Mr. Garrison looked for a homestead. Travel with a team and wagon over rough trails was a slow job. At last he filed on a quarter section some fifty miles northwest of Edmonton (SE quarter of section 6, Township 60, Range 25, West of 4th Meridian) on what was to be the Clyde-Westlock highway. In July they left Edmonton and in three days were pitching their tent on their homestead.

The first two nights on the homestead saw such terrible thunder storms and such difficulties in holding down their tent that the Garrisons moved further west to a site just south of the Edgson home. There they stayed until Mr. Garrison bought from the C.P.R. the southeast quarter of section 35, township 59. (\$5.00 an acre)

The first summer was spent making hay from the abundant native grass and getting acquainted with their new home and neighbors. That fall a prairie fire swept past, burning a small barn and some hay and damaging slightly the tent. Mrs. Garrison had sent the children to safety and had to lie down while the fire passed over her. Mr. Garrison was away cutting logs, and neighbors came to her aid.

In November neighbors came to help raise the Garrison house. During the raising a boy of fifteen got in the way of an axe and lost two fingers. After emergency treatment he was rushed(?) with a team and buggy to the nearest doctor, in Morinville. It was a sobering reminder of their isolation.

The Garrison children were Daphne (9), Lloyd (7), Ivan (5), and Norman (2). Doris was born in 1909, Theron in 1912. Ivan died in 1965, Daphne in 1979. Lloyd lives in White Rock, B.C., Norman at Quesnel, B.C., Doris and Theron in Edmonton.

William Garrison conducted the first funeral service in the community with Jack Edgson leading the singing. (The deceased was a young Scot, Robert Douglas.) He was secretary-treasurer of the Local Improvement District Council and of the Edison

School Board, the latter for many years. He was secretary of the Edison Church Board of Trustees during the church's brief history. He died in 1941.

Lelah Garrison often served as a midwife during the early days. Her capable nursing brought her family successfully through small pox in 1908. She had been vaccinated 25 years before and did not contract the disease. She died in 1957, six weeks before her ninetieth birthday.

## Robert and Joyce Garth

submitted by Joyce Garth (nee Burchett)

As the daughter of Walter Burchett, I came with the family to live in Westlock in October of 1942. My father was secretary of the Pembina School Division at that time. Since the country was still at war housing was at a premium, and so we were unable to locate in Westlock, but rented a house one mile north of town where Bill Kallal lives today. I and my sister Mavis walked to school in Westlock from there. I had just begun Grade 10 and went to classes in the old brick schoolhouse. There was one room each of Grade 10, 11, and 12. Mr. Russell Patrick was the Principal at that time. There were about 200 students attending school. It was still in the era of the outdoor biffy and as long as I attended school, I never knew the pleasure of indoor bathrooms.



Joyce and Robert Garth family.

After completing High School I spent one year away from Westlock, but returned in 1946 to work at Lindahl's store on main street. At that time it was a combined grocery and dry goods store. While at Lindahls I recall that the people were still using ration books for some commodities such as sugar etc., since the country had still not returned to normal after the war. One pound of coffee sold for 45¢.

After the end of one year I left Lindahl's to go to

work for my father in his office. Starting wages were One Hundred Dollars a month, with a promise of a raise in 3 months. However at the end of three months my Dad informed me that since I had been late for work a few times in that period that I would not be getting a raise until I could come to work on time regularly. A tough lesson for me, but I expect he did not want to show any favouritism towards his daughter.

In 1948, Robert Garth and I were married and I left Westlock to reside on the farm at Jarvie for the next 12 years. The feeling of calling Westlock home never left and in 1960 we returned with our three children to reside here once more. The children all took their education here and graduated from High School.

They attended U. of A., each one obtaining a Bachelor of Education. Desmond is teaching in Prince Edward Island, is married to the former Irene Hryciuk of Barrhead, and they have one son. Carol is married to David Berezan and has a small daughter and keeps busy substitute teaching in Wetaskiwin. Marilyn is also teaching Grade 2 in Wetaskiwin and is married to Ed Myszkowski formerly of Linaria.

We feel fortunate to have lived in this community. It is definitely a good place to be. We can now look forward to our retirement here.

## **The Era of Maynard Gibson and Lena Edgson**

**Mrs. Myra Kubbernus (Gibson)**

**8316-166 Street**

**Edmonton**

Approximately 1902 or 1903, Maynard left his home, parents, brothers, and sisters in London, Ontario, and came west to Edmonton. He was about 16 years old. He filed on a homestead four miles south of the base line on what is now Highway #2. By road it was 5½ miles to Clyde.

Later his family moved to Edmonton and his Dad took land on the base line about two miles east of Westlock. During this time Maynard had met Lena Edgson. They were married September 1906 and moved into Maynard's homestead house.

Along the way Alex Marshall built a large house on the same corner as Maynard but cornering on Highway #2. He had the post office and ran the stage from his home to Edmonton. They also served meals to hungry travellers. Later he moved west.

Maynard and Lena's home burned about 1910. He was building a granary 16 x 18 feet so he finished it up and made a home out of it. Maynard and Lena had seven children: Myra, Walter, Hugh, Daisy, Mervin, Ralph, and Joseph. Walter and Daisy died at a very young age and are buried in Dungannon cemetery.



Wedding of Maynard and Lena Gibson, 1906.

Violet Hill school was established when I was about six years old. Miss Magee was my first teacher.

West of us three miles were the Sterlings. Rosario, Emile, and Francois Fortier, who came from Quebec, were north of this about one mile. Also close by was the Reed place. Later the Nichols brothers and two sisters arrived from England. George Clyde also moved into the country. I do know he built the Clyde hotel before the railroad reached it. To this day the old hotel is still in use so I figure it is over 70 years old. Jack and Bill Taylor then moved into the district as did the MacLaughlans and Neil Forbes who also settled along Highway #2 west and south of Clyde. As the years went by Lena Gibson had the post office in her home. It was called Hay Creek. I carried the mail twice weekly through rain, snow, and cold from Vimy after Aquins quit carrying.

Approximately 1910 the Duke of Sutherland came from Scotland and purchased at least four sections of land. Big impressive barns were erected, and Clydesdale horses, Holstein cattle, and the best farm machinery were brought in. Some young Scotsman came out to work on the farm. Mr. Sangster was foreman.

Later on, Gordon Tanish took the job of managing the property. It was during this time they closed Clover Valley and Violet Hill schools and the pupils from the two schools met at the Duke's farm where





Maynard and Lena Gibson, 1939.

one teacher could teach them all. The first teacher was Fred Lynn.

Later the Bishop family moved onto the Reed place quite near the Duke's farm, as we called it.

Horses were used for all farm work, from breaking new land to harvesting it. Later Omar Houle moved into Clover Valley district with a big steam tractor and did breaking and threshing. For the meantime, Maynard had all horse power, wood sawing, crushing grain and baling hay out of the stacks. Most grain was stacked before threshing. Maynard finally got a tractor which speeded up the process of farming considerably.

Three district schools then amalgamated and the Clyde consolidated school was built. The first year classes were held was 1916 in the Gosche hall over the store. I believe the building was owned by Mrs. Olsen. She and her daughter lived in a suite at the back of the store which stood on the same corner as the Clyde Community hall does now.

Heiman Nickerson and his brother Ben had farms on either side of the base line about one mile west of Clyde. Heiman also owned a store in Clyde and was a good friend to have. Those were the days we first had food rationing in Alberta.

It was not all work. For a few years our big living room on the farm had room to dance, and Maynard

and Lena played musical instruments and supplied the music.

Violet Hill school was later moved down to our intersection of the road and was used as a community centre. There was also the Clyde baseball team made up of homesteaders. Maynard was captain and pitcher for the team.

Those were nice times. Everyone pulled together, but the First World War was always in the minds of people. Maynard had brothers Goldwin, Ralph, Bruce, Irving, and John A. Gibson, his Dad, all over seas. Ralph and Bruce were killed in action. Then came Armistice in 1918 and the boys came home. Irving took land across the road from Maynard's farm and later married Peggy Tainsh. John went back to his land near Westlock and Goldwin went back to Rocky Mountain House.

The McMillan brothers bought land a mile east of Highway #2 so little by little the country was all taken up.

After World War I was over the economy of the district picked up. Maynard bought a new tractor and grain separator and did custom work. It was stook threshing by this time. Then came "the hungry thirties", as we all called them. It was a disaster for people who depended on grain crops for a living. The bottom dropped out completely. It really wrought havoc on the whole district. All everyone struggled for seemed lost. In many cases it was.

Maynard, Lena, and family moved to Fairview in 1939. Ralph later went to technical school in Edmonton and ended up making aircraft parts in Ontario during World War II. Mervin joined the air force as a motor mechanic. Joe was also in the Air Force as an air frame mechanic. Hugh was left a farm by his Uncle Charles Edgson, in the Fairview district. He also learned the watch repair trade and had a watch repair and jewelry shop in their home in Fairview.

If I have omitted anyone please excuse me, I am getting old and there are too many things to remember. Some good and some bad but that is what life is all about.

Maynard died in Fairview at age 63. Lena, my mom, lived to 86 years of age and died of a stroke in 1971. Ralph died in Edmonton two years ago of heart failure. I am living in Edmonton, Mervin lives in Sooke on Vancouver Island, B.C., Joe is still in Fairview, and Hugh is in the Grandview Extended Care Hospital in Edmonton.

## Myra Gibson

by Myra (Gibson) Kubbernus

Myra was the oldest of the seven children of Maynard and Lena Gibson, and was born in 1907 at Clyde, about fifty miles north of Edmonton.

Being the oldest child in those early days entailed a lot of hard work and responsibility in all ways, from housekeeping, chores and other outside work to even pitching sheaves in harvest time.



The Gibsons in 1966. L to R: Mervin, Ralph, Joe, Myra, Hugh and Lena.

I married Peter Hayward, who was a grain buyer, when I was twenty, and went to live at Colinton, Alberta, north of Clyde, on the old Landing Trail.

We have two children; Arthur, now deceased, and Shirley, who has her B.Sc. in Nursing. My son and his wife, Joy, had three children, and Shirley and Gordon have two. We experienced some hard times in those early days but we were always quite a happy family.

Pete died in 1958. I was on my own then and went to work for the C.N. Railway work-gangs as a cook. It was a hard life but good pay!

I married again in 1963 to Walter Kubbernus, who also worked on the C.N.R. as a carpenter.

At the present time we are living in our own little house in Edmonton, near the Meadowlark Shopping Centre.

## The William Gilchrist Family

by Mrs. Jean Harris

Both William and Mary were born in the Dalbeattie area of Scotland. Bill came to Canada in October, 1912, and Mary followed after the World War in 1919. Bill enlisted in the Army (10th Battalion) in 1914 and

was overseas until the war ended. He won the Military Medal for distinguished services.

After receiving his discharge, Bill came back to Alberta where he worked in creameries at Daysland and Camrose. He was made manager of the new Westlock Creamery which opened in 1923.

Mary Erskine arrived from Ontario in 1923 and was married to Bill, coming out to Westlock as a new bride.

The family of six children were all born in Westlock. They are: Jean (Harris) of Islington, Ontario; Ian of Watson Lake, Yukon; Annabel (Thornicroft) of North Vancouver; Bill Jr. of Fanny Bay, Vancouver Island; Mary and Grace (Howell) both living in Edmonton. There are twelve grandchildren.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Gilchrist were hard workers and were involved in many town projects and local efforts. Bill was one of the first members of the Westlock Curling Club, built in 1926, and was an original shareholder and also a great curler. He held the position of Secretary-treasurer in the Curling Club until the family moved to Sangudo in 1940. Bill was also a member of the Masonic Lodge.

Bill purchased his own creamery in Sangudo and started a new and successful business for that area.

The Gilchrists retired to Edmonton in 1950 hoping for an easier life, but unfortunately Bill died of cancer in 1955 at the age of 64 and Mary died some years later (1969) from a heart attack.

## The Gillies Family

written by Archie Gillies (Son)

Our father, Matthew Gillies and our mother, Annie Gilles (nee McCann) were both born in Scotland, Annie in Glasgow, Matthew in Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, where after their marriage in 1904, they established their own home. Coal mining was the principal occupation in that area and it was as a coal miner that Matthew worked for a number of years. About 1906 he decided to visit Canada and see what it was like so he went on a harvesters' excursion to Western Canada; spent the late summer and autumn harvesting in southern Saskatchewan then went to Edmonton where he worked in a coal mine on Walters Flat until February of the following year. At that time the bunk house in which he had a bed and a little personal space was burned and he lost everything except the clothes he was wearing and his money belt which he always wore under his clothes. He returned then to Scotland and swore that Canada was a place for dogs and Indians, but within six months he was beginning to think again of going to Canada.

The family, now consisting of three children, a fourth, the first born, having died while a baby, were Archie the eldest, William (Bill) next and Elizabeth





Matthew Gillies family. First Christmas on farm 1920. Back row: Archie, Matthew, Annie with Agnes and Dave Thomson. Front row: Bill, Jenny, Polly, Lizzie.

(Lizzie) a babe in arms, came to Canada by steamship landing at Quebec city and travelling by train to Edmonton, where we arrived about June 9th, 1911.

The day we landed in Edmonton a cousin informed Matthew of an opportunity to buy a good piece of land so he bought one acre close to what is now Bonnie Doon in Edmonton South, then known as Strathcona and still called by that name by some oldtimers. By autumn a house had been built and the family moved in. In the interim we had occupied a building that later became a stable which Matthew's cousin owned.

Matthew returned to coal mining and the children attended Rutherford School in Bonnie Doon. During this time we were surrounded by uncles, aunts, cousins and numerous other Scottish immigrants, but the Gillies' household appeared to be the focal point for the activities of this group. Maybe we were clannish

but there didn't seem to be any attempt to exclude anyone for English, Irish, Welsh and other indeterminate groups moved in and out of association with us as time passed.

Two more children, Jennie and Mary Margaret, who has always been known as Polly, were born by the time Matthew joined the army with the outbreak of World War I in 1914. He was invalided home in the spring of 1918 and under the establishment program for returned soldiers he took a course in Agriculture at the University of Alberta. In the fall of 1919 he bought Gary Hansen's farm, the N.E. 19-60-26-W4th Meridian. We did not move there until March 1920, again with a babe in arms, Agnes, the last of the children.

The first to arrive was Matthew with sons, Archie and Bill. They had come from Edmonton in a box car of settler's effects. Although it is such a short distance from Edmonton to Westlock we started from the C.P.R. yards in Strathcona and took forty-eight hours to get to Westlock. The first twenty-four hours was spent between the C.P.R. yards and the Dunvegan yards in North-west Edmonton.

Having reached Westlock our goods were transported to the farm in the next couple of days. Those were the most homesick days of my life. The winter had been long and the snowfall particularly heavy. We had to break trail through two to three feet of snow into the farm. The house of course was empty and cold and there wasn't a stick of wood with which to light a fire. Even worse, when we went to the stable with the horses, there in one of the stalls was the skinned carcass of a horse that had died. Our first job was to haul it out of there back into the woods, later to be burned along with several other carcasses discovered when the snow melted. Contrary to the sale agreement no hay or grain had been left on the farm. Such animal feed was scarce for the winter had



Matthew Gillies family. Jenny, Matthew, Lizzie, Archie, Bill and Annie with Polly on her knee.



Gillies family reunion 1975. Lizzie, Archie, Polly, Bill and Agnes.

been long and severe but good neighbors shared what they had and supplemented by what came into the district through dealers, we got through to the spring without loss.

One of the first things that had to be done when spring arrived was to find a good source of water for only a shallow well which filled with surface water was on the farm. A well driller, Mr. Brownell, assisted by Mr. Carew, who was operating in the area west of Clyde, was engaged and drilled a hole suitable for taking a two inch casing. Water was found at about 120 feet and an artesian well was the result. This was the first of the drilled wells in our area. Eventually every farm had one. Some were artesian. Those that were not came close to the surface and were easily pumped.

This area in which we lived was not yet organized as a School District. Consequently none of the children went to school. Matthew was instrumental in getting the area organized as the Prosperous School District, but instead of building a school (one was built later as more families with children moved into the district) an arrangement was made with the Westlock Consolidated School to take the seven or eight scholars at that time into the Westlock School. As a result of this agreement we began attending school in Westlock at the beginning of January 1921. We travelled daily the five and a half miles each way to school by horse and democrat or cutter in the winter-time. We acquired our education mainly in Westlock and Edmonton.

All members of the family married and at this time all are still living, except Jennie, who passed away in 1966. Matthew died after retiring from farming. Annie died seventeen years' later. They had moved to Victoria for a brief time, but later returned to the Westlock district.

Archie and Bill both settled in Ontario within a few miles of each other. The girls all remained in the West. Lizzie is the only one who has remained in the Westlock district.

## **Douglas and Eileen Glebe** **by Eileen Glebe**

Douglas, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Glebe Sr., was born on the farm at Pickardville, Alberta.

As a young boy he worked in the field, walking behind the harrows drawn by horses.

He attended school at Trail's End and Pickardville High school.

He was a member of the Reserve Army at Westlock. In April 1944 he volunteered for service in The Royal Canadian Navy, with H.M.C.S. Nonsuch in Edmonton. After receiving his basic training at Lake Wabamun, he was transferred to Cornwallis, Nova



Tennyson Powell homestead. Doug and Eileen Glebe's house moved Jan. 31, 1956. Homestead buildings in background.

Scotia for advanced training and later posted to H.M.C.S. Rosthern for Active Duty on the High Seas.

When the war ended he returned home to farm with his Father, from whom he purchased a quarter section (S.E.-14-58-26-W4th), that had been bought for him while he was in the navy. They broke more land, with the breaking plow being pulled by a Rumely tractor.

In the winter he worked underground at the Penn Coal Mine at Carbondale, and later at lumber camps at Edson, Flatbush and Athabasca. Some of the names of the sawmill operators were: Deshoux, Zaczkowski, Ken Towns, Harry L'Heureux etc.

I, am the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anhorn, who moved to this area in November 1934 from Veteran, Alberta where I was born.

I went to school at Elk Park, Pickardville and Westlock. While going to Elk Park the road would flood in the spring, so for about two weeks the school would close. The water was so high it came up to the wagon box on a high-wheeled wagon.

Doug played baseball and I played softball. Needless to say we met at the ball diamond.

On July 18, 1952 we were married in the Westlock United Church. Following a three-week honeymoon to Southern Alberta, B.C. and various points in the U.S.A., we returned to Pickardville where Doug had rented a house as there were no buildings on his farm.

That fall a well was drilled and a three-room house built, which would be used for a garage when we could afford a larger dwelling. We also made a straw barn for the milk cows.

In 1954 an unusually wet spring and early frost, left us with just greenfeed and barley that was nothing but hulls. All the pigs were sold except two sows, so we could start up again.



On January 31, 1956 we moved our house to (N.W.-20-58-26-W4th), on a bitterly cold day that registered 30 degrees below zero. Tennyson Powell had homesteaded there but had moved to Edmonton, about thirty years prior to this. At this time we also purchased (N.E.-30-58-26-W4th) from Mr. Powell and sold our former quarter section (S.E.-14-58-26-W4th) to Marcel Belanger.

Once again we had a farm with no buildings, except a fifty year-old log barn and a homesteader's shack.

On April 21, 1956 our first child, Kathryn Ann, was born.

The year 1956 kept us very busy preparing buildings and fences for the winter ahead.

Mr. and Mrs. Val Craddock lived across the road, where he had homesteaded after the first World War. They both loved children and Kathy, soon was nicknamed "Craddock's Cracker Kid".

On Thanksgiving Sunday, October 13, 1957 our son Gordon Miles arrived, completing the family we had hoped for.



Douglas Glebe, A.B. World War II on board H.M.C.S. Rosthern.

In 1962 our tractor was destroyed by fire so the new house had to wait.

Over the years Doug had various jobs off the farm to supplement our income. On the farm we had milk cows (shipped cream), beef cattle, pigs, chickens and sold some grain.

In 1966 our dream was about to become a reality, when a new house was constructed. The honeymoon shack turned into a garage, many fond memories remain with us of life within its walls.

Being avid sports people we coached baseball and softball, in which Kathy and Gordie also participated. Gordon still plays with the Westlock Red Lions. The family liked to curl in the winter months

and Gordon played hockey too. Kathy also belonged to the 4H clothing club.

We both held positions in the United Church, and Doug was on the Hall Board as well as the local President of Uniform for two years.

I was secretary-treas. for Club 80 which is still in existence.

Doug is a member of The Royal Canadian Legion #97, Westlock and I am a member of its Ladies Auxiliary.

On the farm at present we have a few beef cattle, and Doug is a grader operator for the M.D. of Westlock #92.

Kathy and Gordie both graduated from Westlock High School and now both live in Edmonton.

Kathy is married to Rick Jackman and they have two daughters, Pamela and Angela.

If space permits I would like to share a little humor.

While Doug was attending Pickardville High school, he and a chum, Irwin Rude, decided to go to the show in Westlock. In those days transportation wasn't too great, so they hung onto the side of the passenger train to Westlock. Well they went to the show, then how to get back to Pickardville? There just happened to be a freight train so they jumped on, but it didn't stop. It was going too fast for them to jump off, and they found themselves in Edmonton. Now what? You guessed it! They hopped on another train, not knowing where it was headed. Anyhow they ended up back in Westlock, cause this train didn't stop in Pickardville either. So they walked back just in time for school the next morning.

If laughter alone could keep you healthy I'm sure we'd never be sick.

## Fred Glebe

**Fred Glebe** was born in Bruce County, Ontario in 1882. He was the eldest son of Elizabeth and John Glebe Sr. Fred was about 4 years of age when his parents, himself, one brother and one sister moved to Beaver City, Nebraska, U.S.A. Years later Fred as a young man in his early twenties with his brother John Jr. left with a team of mules and wagon and headed for Canada. It took them a year to get here as they worked at different jobs along the way. They arrived in Edmonton in 1905 in time to witness Alberta become a province. Fred worked at building, plastering and brick laying, a trade he learned from his father. In Edmonton he plastered homes as well as the old Leland and Lincoln Hotels. In the Clover Bar district he helped build a large cement block house for the Roy Marler family. It still stands but is owned by someone else now. In 1908 he filed on a homestead in the Pickardville area the N.E. Sec.26-58-27-

W4th. One of the first improvements he made was to build a two room log house. Later he met and married Myrtle Ritter, they had one son Cleo. Since then the wife and son passed away many years ago. In 1928 and 1929 with the help of his brothers he replaced the log house with a five room cement one. He donated some of his land for the cemetery (being used now), also took an active part in the community and was on the hall board for many years. He did plastering and brick laying around this community. In 1940 Fred married Annie Chomara of Thorhild, Alberta. In 1964 Fred passed away after a short illness. Later Annie married his nephew, Floyd Glebe, who still resides on the original homestead in the cement house, which now has some renovations done to it.

**John Glebe Jr.** was born in Bruce County, Ontario in 1883 and at the age of three he moved with his parents to Beaver City, Nebraska, U.S.A. He and his older brother Fred traveled with a team of mules to Canada, arriving in Edmonton in 1905 to see Alberta become a province. John went to the Cooking Lake area and filed on a homestead. He married Florence Chadwick and they had six children Harvey, Lorne, Roy, Johnnie, May and Dorothy. After his wife passed away John brought his family to Pickardville where he helped his Father and brothers on the farm and working at different jobs also. He enjoyed his hobby of archery and made a lot of bows and arrows which he liked giving to people as souvenirs. Later due to illness John moved to the Senior Citizens home in Athabasca. There he lived up to the time of his death in 1963. Four of his six children live in and around the Vancouver area.

**William (Bill) Glebe Sr.** youngest son of Elizabeth and John Glebe. He came to Canada by train with his parents in 1910 from Beaver City, Nebraska, U.S.A. at the age of 11 years. The family settled in Pickardville, where he attended Pickardville School No. 1901. As a young man he enjoyed playing his violin at house parties on Saturday nights. He bought his first quarter section from Tom Stump, the S.W. 23-58-27-W4. In 1918 he married Bula Mitchell of Pickardville formerly from Catale, Oklahoma. They had four sons Floyd, Charlie, Douglas and William Jr. Besides farming William was handy in repairing and putting together kit packaged radios, he also served on the school board for the Trails End School for several years. As time passed his four sons married.

Floyd to Annie Chamara of Thorhild residing now at Pickardville.

Douglas to Eileen Anhorn of Pickardville residing now at Pickardville.

Charlie to Kirsti Suolahti of Red Deer residing now at Red Deer.

William Jr. to Lilley Wendland of Pickardville now residing at Pickardville.

In 1963 his wife Bula passed away. Seven years later William married Amelia Anhorn of Pickardville. He sold his farm to his youngest son William Jr. and bought a house in Westlock where he and Amelia lived for several years before she passed away. Later William moved into the Westlock Nursing Home at Westlock, Alberta.

## **Pickardville 1906**

**by Mrs. Henry Glebe**

In the summer of 1906, the Fred Wiley family first saw the Pickardville country. Fred had filed on the NE¼ of section 22, township 58 range 27 west of the 4th meridian in March of that year, but had not managed to get out to see it until the time came when he had a broken arm and had to lay off work. The injury was the outcome of a ball game between Red Deer and Strathcona, where we lived at the time.

With a hired team and wagon we set out. It took three days. We camped beside the road at night and slept in the wagon. We reached the homestead of the Stuart Marler family in the middle of a summer night. They had a cow, a garden and an abundance of wild raspberries, free for the picking! It seemed so lovely there, after four years of living in a town in Alberta and in Kansas.

As soon as possible, we all set out to locate "our own place." What a thrill that was! We found it about two miles away; there was no road to it, of course. Homesteads were located by the survey lines, mounds and stakes. Everyone was eager to do a little chopping and no fewer than twenty-six trees were felled to clear a spot big enough for a house.

From then on, our hopes were only of getting out there to live. We made it in November, 1906. Before leaving town Dad bought a gun, a 30-30 Winchester long rifle, which seemed expensive then at \$18.00! It was purchased from a gunsmith, Mortinur Burger, who had his shop on Whyte Avenue; his family living above it. Dad's main hope in coming to Canada was that he'd be able to hunt and trap here as his family had done in Kansas many years before.

William Pickard, from England, who had served his country in India before coming to Canada, had taken up the NE¼ of section 35, had been granted the Post Office, a registry office and had started a store. His name was given to the Post Office and the country around became known as Pickardville.

A few others were settled on homesteads nearby; the Marlers, David Alleger, Frank Belval and his partner, Felix Goupie. Frank and Felix came to the Pickardville area from the Yukon.

Four miles west of Pickard's there was a settle-



ment of French-speaking settlers, mostly from Quebec. They had a well attended Roman Catholic church, some cleared land and passable roads. The store there was operated by Mr. L. Demers and his son Joe.

Dad and Mother put up their house themselves. It was built of hand hewn squared logs, set on end, a slab roof over tarpaper and lumber, one and a half storeys high. With plenty of dry poplar wood to burn in an air-tight heater, it seemed warm and cosy, even though the fuel went up the pipes like paper. That house burned down several years later.

When Dad got work at a sawmill later on that winter, he would pack home groceries on his back. When he was away too long, Mother and one of the older children would go to the store, while the next older child stayed home to mind the younger ones. It was three miles away, with only a cow path to travel on.

The settlers on sections 25 and 35 had cattle; their name was Vient. I think they were "squatters."

We had a cow but no fences, and she would not stay home so she soon went "dry." That meant that the little ones had no milk to drink. Milk was not considered a necessity for babies in those days as people were still afraid of passing on tuberculosis by using it.

When the Townsend family moved on to the south-east quarter of 27 it seemed we must have a school. When there were enough children of school-age and younger, within a certain area, the government would help the settlers get a school going, but then, as later, it seemed to take an age. It was 1912 before a school became an accomplished fact. It was a large bare building, covered with sheets of metal, known for all time as the "old tin schoolhouse." It was more suited for public meetings and dances than classes.

Who were the first to come to that school? There were four Townsends and five Wileys: two sons of Emmanuel St. Louis, Emil and Mossie; two little boys from David Allenger's; Clifford Metcalfe; Grayson Marler; and two Glebe boys, lately come from Nebraska. That may not have been all. Our mother asked Bert after he had started to school, "What did you do at school today?" He replied airily, "Oh, today we took the A.B.C.'s up to D!"

The first teacher hired was a Miss Iva Crawford from Ontario, who was about 18 years old. She was not happy there. She started in late October and left at Christmas. After New Year's of 1913, Miss Ethel Watton came from New Brunswick. She was older and an excellent teacher. She stayed until the end of June. By that time I was in Grade VIII and several of the older boys had quit to work at clearing land.

The next year I got a place in a home in Edmonton where I could earn my room and board, and finish Grade VIII at Oliver School. At that time Grade VIII was called public school leaving, and one waited till the right Edmonton Bulletin came out in August, to know the exam results. One day in the summer, Dad came home and told us that one of the neighbours had got a Bulletin with the exam results, but that my name was not there. This I refused to believe and, borrowing a pair of my brother's rubber boots, I went to see for myself. The names were neatly printed in alphabetical order, and I found mine in the "W's." "Oh Mother, we never thought of **that**!" was the old neighbour's remark.

That let me out of Pickardville school, but it was kept operating until the E.D. and B.C. Railway went north and Pickardville, Busby and Westlock had become little towns, where people lived and wanted schools nearby. Pickardville had become quite a town, as the French settlement had moved into it, and many building lots were surveyed, bought and built on. And the "K" was left out of Pickard. It was more French that way. Later, Trail's End School was built and the "Old Tin School" was sold and moved to Frank Belval's place.

Less than a mile from the old tin school there was quite a large muskeg lake. It was surrounded by bog and slough, the summer haunt of hundreds of Red-winged Blackbirds, ducks, snipe, kildeer and often flocks of Canada geese on their way south. Wild cranberries were abundant there. I remember picking a water pail full and selling it to Mrs. Hawkins for one dollar! In winter the lake was surrounded by muskrat houses and a little money could be earned by trapping the rats, when the furs were prime. The hides had to be stretched on suitable boards and dried. They never seemed to bring as much as one expected to get when the buyer came around; a hang-over from the times when the first white men began to buy furs from the natives. That lake was drained after the railroad went through and became a hay meadow.

One of the reasons the early days were so hard was the inexperience of the settlers. One family was known to have driven forty head of horses and mules across country from Texas, not knowing how long and cold the winters were, or how nearly impossible it was to get feed for livestock, or how many millions of mosquitoes would make life a hell during summer. The animals all died.

I remember how little Frankie Pickard took sick and died with diphtheria in a single night, in spite of all his parents could do. There was no doctor nearer than Morinville, no roads and no cars. My own little brother, Louie, was stricken with pneumonia and

died before Dr. Phillips, who lived miles away, could attend him.

What about the little almost demented English woman who used to call out to the moon? “Moon, oh moon, you’re the same old moon that used to shine at home in England.” Or the man who could not get a job because the sign out front said, “No green Englishman need apply!”

One time we got the use of a garden spot left by some settlers who had moved back to Edmonton. We planted it all to potatoes, and they did very well. We dug them and loaded them into a double wagon box. My brother aged ten, and myself aged twelve, were to take them home with a team of oxen. Three miles of the road had recently been cut through heavy timber. Darkness came on. We hit a spot where one side of the wagon was in a hole, the opposite side on a stump only partly removed. A sudden lurch of the wagon and the ten-year-old went over the edge. Now oxen are slow to start, and slow to stop! By the time these stopped I felt certain that the child would be seriously injured. But only one sole of the heavy boots he was wearing was bent, almost double, miraculously saving his foot. The potatoes, which we buried in a pit, froze in the first cold spell. Marsh hay was not good insulation!

Once, when travelling back out to the homestead after a few months in the city, Mother’s only rocking chair was thrown off the top of the load. Dark was coming on and we never did find the chair. Whoever was the baby that year got no more rocking!

You may wonder why we travelled those roads so many times in the course of the years. Sometimes it was so that Dad could get to a job at building, to earn some necessary cash, or it was because Mother wanted to be nearer medical aid during an impending confinement. After Mrs. Christine Lambert came to live near, she acted as mid-wife, and very good she was. People, on the whole, were very healthy in the clean new country. If you were wise, you never picked up another boy’s hat and put it on your head. I knew a young lad who went to a sawmill to help the cook. When the work was over for the year he came home swarming with vermin. He hadn’t taken them into the camp, and remember, he was helping the cook! Some people used to think that spruce trees had bed-bugs in them when growing in the woods. Had they examined them well, they would have found the spruce-bug a chewing insect, the bed bug a sucking insect.

So the “good old days” had their drawbacks. Carrying water from the nearest running stream was woman’s work. Sometimes a woman was lucky to get a garden spot plowed and harrowed, after that it was hers to plant, weed, harvest and prepare for the table.

The men had so little to work with, and the homestead was often mortgaged as soon as the patent was issued. But always the future lay, like a multi-colored shawl, over the drabness of the present.

### John Sr. and Elizabeth Glebe

John Glebe Sr. was born in Ontario, Canada and grew up there. In 1881 he married Elizabeth Hall who was born in Aberdeen, Scotland and came to Ontario with her parents and family. They had their first three children while living between Chepsto and Pinkerton, Ontario. They were named Fred, John and Margaret.



Elizabeth Glebe, 1925 with seven of her grandchildren. L to R: Bill, Henry, Sid, Margaret (Elizabeth), Fred, John, and Frank.

In 1885 the family moved to Beaver City, Nebraska, where they homesteaded. In the twenty-five years that they lived there, the other seven children were born, and attended school there. John did blacksmithing, making a lot of his own tools, as well as doing carpentry and masonry work.

He had an excellent singing voice and led the church choir in Beaver City. He could not understand why his children were not as gifted as he was, voice-wise.

Elizabeth, besides raising three daughters and seven sons, always had a large garden and orchard. She did all her own sewing and knitting, and loved to cook.

About 1905, the two oldest boys, John and Fred, decided to seek greener pastures so with a team of mules hitched to a light wagon, headed out until they reached Edmonton. Fred homesteaded at Pickardville. In the meantime Sidney came out and took up a homestead nearby.

John and Elizabeth Glebe came to Alberta in 1910. They took up a homestead on the NW¼-25-58-27-W4 and built a frame house some





John Glebe, Sr. 1935 with some of his grandchildren.

distance back on the quarter. They did not come empty handed but had most of their livestock, machinery and household goods which included an organ shipped up by train. The threshing machine, an Avery, was used up to the time combines took over. When the railroad went through and the road allowances were being built up they moved the house closer to the road and added a big barn, as well as other buildings.

In April of 1923, John donated a piece of property for a Presbyterian church to be built on as a favor to his wife. There was a lack of members so, in 1925, it became the United Church, which still stands on the same property. John helped build the church and was one of its first trustees.

John was a member of the Council for the Municipal District of Hazelwood, which was also in Pickardville. He bought one of the first cars to come to the country — a 1925 Dodge.

Elizabeth died in 1926 at the age of 70 and John lived alone until 1935. He passed away that year at the age of 81. Both are buried in the Pickardville cemetery.

## Sidney Sr. and Myrtle Glebe

Sidney was born at Beaver City, Nebraska, where he got his schooling. His one regret was that he was never able to finish school and go into further education.

He came to Alberta in 1909 and took up a homestead on the SW¼-30-58-26-W4. He served with the Canadian Army in World War I, and in 1918 married Myrtle Mitchell.

Myrtle was born near Catale on the Shawnee Indian Territory before it became the state of Oklahoma. She came to Alberta along with her dad, Wyatt Mitchell, brother Arch, her sisters and grandmother Drake, was later buried in Advance cemetery. They spent the first winter in the Clover Bar area,



Sid and Myrtle Glebe's first home, still being used as an outbuilding.

before moving to the farm now known as the John Frigon farm.

Sid and Myrtle had a family of four: Evelyn, Eldon, Sidney and Frank who died in infancy.

Sid did carpenter work. He built some of the houses that are still lived in, in Pickardville. He was also one of the men instrumental in getting the school built at Pickardville and was a school trustee until his family were no longer in school.

He did his first farming mainly with horses, until he and his brother Fred bought a Rumley tractor. He had an old white mare who always balked until she was given a run pulling a stone-boat. This was usually Myrtle's job. Of course, all three children had to go along for the ride, and it was often a rough one!

Sid was an avid baseball player and taught both his boys the tricks in becoming good pitchers. In later years he enjoyed curling.

They bought their first car in 1928, a Chevrolet, and the road was so bad at the time they had to have a horse pull it home.



Sid and Myrtle Glebe with their 1928 Chev.

In later years, Sid's hobby was making guns, doing the barrel drilling, etc., all with tools he had made himself.

Myrtle, besides raising a family, had a big garden every year and always kept a flock of chickens. She did a lot of her own sewing, canning, etc. Her hobby was crocheting and making beautiful home-made quilts, all done by hand.

Myrtle at one time belonged to the Women's Institute and in later years to the Happy Home-maker's Club. She was a good cook, hard working and quite reserved.

Sidney died in 1966 and Myrtle two years later, in 1968. Both are buried in Pickardville cemetery.

Evelyn married Roy McAllister and lived east of Morinville for several years before going to Oregon and then to British Columbia. Roy died while living in Langley, B.C. in 1975. Evelyn later stayed with an aunt in Oregon but came back to Alberta in December of 1980. She now lives with her brother and drives a school bus.

Elden and Sidney were both great sport fans playing baseball, hockey and also curling. Elden was in the army during World War II. He served overseas and was wounded while in Sicily but stayed overseas until the end of the war. He married Rejeanne Bon-neville and had a family of four: Wyatt, Sandra, Loraine and Shirly.

Elden bought and farmed the original John Glebe farm. He was the second school bus driver and drove for about 29 years. Elden passed away in December, 1976.

Sidney now farms north of Pickardville. He operated the road maintainer for about twelve years then drove a school bus for eighteen years.

In 1980 he became councillor for division two of Westlock M.D. he also served on several other boards through the council.

## **The Charles Glen Family by Bernice and Margaret Glen**

Charles and Amy Glen lived in Cavendish, a small prairie town in southern Alberta, until the spring of 1939. The family boarded CPR Car #197030 in Calgary with all their possessions, including four horses and two cows, and travelled north to Westlock. All but two of their nine children accompanied their parents to their new home. Margaret, an artist, had been working in Calgary with the Hudson's Bay Co., and Betty, a nursing aide, was at the West Coast. The other children, Amy, Agnes, Charles (Bud), James, John, William, and Grace, made the trip to Westlock.

After arriving in Westlock, the Glen family lived in a house across from the Delivery Barn for a short



Glen family, 1939. Jim, Charlie (Bub), Margaret, Amy, Agnes and Betty, Charlie Sr., Amy Sr., Bill and John, Grace.

period of time. They then moved to a house one mile south of the Prosperous School on the Nicol place.

During the summer of 1939, land was cleared and a house was built on SE-29-60-26-W4 — just north of the school. Seven acres were cleared from the house down to the Prosperous School, which was on the south-east corner of the quarter.

Grace began school there, escorted by her four brothers. Mrs. Margaret Currey, their teacher, taught nine grades. Charlie and Jim rode their bikes, or walked on the railroad tracks to attend high school in Pibroch. John, Bill and Grace attended high school in Westlock.

Agnes worked for the Altons. Charlie worked for Bob Roberts making 50¢ a day. Charlie got into the bee business with Bob. Jim, Charlie and John threshed with Alex Campbell, Dave Paul and the Taylor family. Jim worked for the Altons and Les Hide.

Five of the Glen's joined the Armed Forces during World War II. Betty and Amy were in the Air Force, Agnes and Jim in the Army, and Charlie in the Navy.

Mother Glen enjoyed her music. She taught piano to many local children. She played the organ and sang in the United Church choir. With Charles on the violin and Amy playing the piano, they performed for numerous social functions at the Prosperous School.

Amy was proud of her herd of dairy cows and shipped cream weekly to the Westlock Dairy. As a member of the U.F.W.A., she enjoyed many meetings and outings with the group. Charles was an avid supporter of the U.F.A., being a director of the local group for a number of years.

Amy and Agnes, following their discharge from the armed forces, went to work in the mess hall at the Negus mine in Yellowknife. It was here in 1948 Amy married Art Hopkins of Wembley, Alberta. They lived on the farm at Cutbank Lake near Wembley,



until 1952, when they took up land in the Lassiter Project north of Tangent, Alberta. They had a family of three, Chuck, Kathy and Susan. Art passed away in November 1980 and Amy in September 1981. Chuck, his wife Mary Helen and two girls live on the farm near Tangent. Kathy, her husband Ray Grimm and three children farm near Rycroft, Alberta. Susan, her husband Harry Allen and two children operate a bulk oil station at Wainwright, Alberta.

In the spring of 1950, Margaret married Vince Stone of Burnaby, B.C. and Betty married Don McKechnie of Victoria. Margaret and Vince raised a family of two, Douglas and Dianne. Since their retirement, the Stones spend most of their time at their home at Mesa, Arizona. Their son Douglas, a fireman, and his wife Jamie have two children and reside at Burnaby. Dianne and her husband Arnie Kucheran, are teachers at Burnaby. The McKechnies, living at Saanichton, B.C., raised a family of five — Dawn, David, Glen, Martha and Kevin. Don and Betty have two grandchildren.

Jim married Margaret Smith of Grimshaw, Alberta in June of 1950. They reside on their farm north of Grimshaw. Jim, a truck driver, is employed with Peace Trailer Industries. They have a family of four, Maureen, Ken, Jack and Carolyn. Maureen is a Grade 1 teacher at Berwyn, Ken a computer programmer in Edmonton, Jack a mechanic at Fairview, and Carolyn a student at college in Edmonton.

Agnes married Ken Campbell of Eaglesham, Alberta in 1951. They had a family of five — Patricia, Margaret (Peggy), David, Darcy and Laura. Ken passed away in April 1971. Agnes, Darcy and Laura live on their ranch south of Eaglesham where they raise Charolais cattle and quarter horses. Pat and her husband George Taylor live at Shilo, Manitoba with their family of three. George is in the army. Peggy, her husband Chuck Stojan and two children have a garage in Sexsmith, Alberta. David, his wife Betty and three children live at Teepee Creek where David works at the gas plant.

Charles Sr. passed away suddenly in September, 1951 at Westlock. Grace, after completing a nursing aide course, worked in Dr. Kickham's office at Westlock. She married Bill Wallace of Calgary in February 1953 at Westlock. They made their homes in several towns in Alberta, where Bill worked with the Bank of Montreal, finally residing in Fort St. John, B.C. They had a family of three, Brian, David and Brenda. Brian passed away in 1975 of cancer, David and his wife Peggy live in Edmonton where David is a pilot with the provincial government. Brenda lives in Red Deer, Alberta.

Charlie married Bernice Webb of Griffin Creek, Alberta in June of 1953. They have resided in



Glen family, 1978. Charlie, Jim, John, Bill, Betty, Grace, Margaret, Agnes, Amy.

Grimshaw since, except for 6 years spent in High Level. Charlie is shop supervisor for Alberta Transportation. They raised a family of four, Allen, Gordon, Dennis and Colette. Allen is a partsman at Fairview, Gordon and Dennis are electricians at Grimshaw and Colette is a stenographer at the weigh scales north of Grimshaw. Bill married Margaret Janssen of Westlock in August, 1956. Bill was in the armed forces for thirty years before retiring in 1979. They lived in Germany, as well as many locations in Canada, presently making Vermilion, Alberta their home. Bill is also shop supervisor for Alberta Transportation. They have four children, Robert, Gregory, John and Elaine. Robert and John live in Edmonton, Robert working with computers, Greg and his wife Lorna and daughter live in Westlock, where Greg is a baker. Elaine is at home.

John, continuing to live on the family farm north of Westlock and working for the M.D. of Westlock as truck driver, married Norma Boutin of Westlock in 1976. Norma has four boys from a previous marriage, Greg, Russell, Bradley and Brent.

Amy Glen passed away in December, 1978, at Camrose after an illness of twenty years.

John and Norma live in their modern home on the same farm where the Glen family made their start at Westlock over forty years ago.

## Henry and Sally Goller

I, Henry am the son of Herman and Johanna Goller and was born Feb. 20th, 1944. I, Sally am the daughter of Sam and Irene Schmode, born September 21st, 1947. We both attended the Westlock School after the country schools were closed. Before going to Westlock, Henry attended Edison school. Sally first went to Vimy, Pickardville and then Westlock. We were married in 1965 and moved to a trailer

on Schmode's farm. As Henry was working for McGregor Power and Telephone, we did a lot of moving. We lived in Morinville for a short time then we moved to Foremost, Lethbridge, Sterling, Bowden then to Rocky Mountain House. Then we moved back to Schmode's farm. From there we went to Arnold Goller's farm. From there we went to Westlock Trailer Court. We lived there until we bought a house in East Glen at 10368-109th Ave. where we still live. We have two sons, Garry born in 1966 and Chris born in 1967. Henry started working for McGregor's in 1962 then was laid off for a while so took up selling Watkins' products for awhile. Then he worked for Ace Construction for two years. Henry then went back to McGregors where he still works. Sally worked at Gulf Cafe for some time and then at P. J.'s Snack Bar. Presently she is employed at the Co-Op Bakery. Her hobbies are quilt making and cake decorating.

### **Herman and Johanna Goller** by Herman Goller

Herman was born on April 1st 1897 and Johanna was born on September 15th, 1903 in Warsaw, Poland. We were married on November 21st, 1925. On June 9th, 1928 we came to Canada. We landed in Quebec and stayed for three days; went to Winnipeg and stayed there for another three days. We had our oldest son Arnold with us as he was born January 29th, 1927. From Winnipeg we came to Edmonton where we lived for six weeks. For three weeks I, (Herman) worked for Gainers Packing Plant where I was making sausage, but because I could not speak English I was fired. Then we moved to Ellerslie and lived in an empty house on a farm and worked for the farmer for four months. The next month I worked for another fellow as a carpenter to build a machine shed and to start to build a barn. We started to look for a farm of our own and found one in the Wetaskwin area in Dec. 1928. We moved to this farm in April 1929 and as there was no building on it, I bought an old granary that had a straw roof on it at an auction sale and moved it with a team of horses to my place. I put a roof on it and we lived in it till Dec. 3rd 1929. By then I had built a log house and moved into it. Before we moved from the granary we had another son, Arthur, born July 29th, 1929. During the winter I hauled logs to build a barn. Then I brushed and broke more land in 1930 as when I moved on to this farm, there were only sixteen acres under cultivation and my contract called for another 100 acres to be made farmable in three years. But with hard work I had cleared and broke more than the 100 acres. In 1931 I had all the land in crop. Then the depression came. We also had a daughter, Frieda who was born on June

4th, 1931 and with all things else I could not make my payments so in 1932 I lost my farm. Then I moved to a homestead at Moon Lake where we lived for eighteen years. Here the rest of our children were born; John, May 16th, 1936; Martha born August 22nd, 1937; Annie born July 23rd, 1941; Henry born February 20th, 1944. In 1948 I bought a farm in the Westlock district. In 1950 we moved from Wetaskiwin to Moon Lake which is near Drayton Valley. It took three days with horses. When I moved from Moon Lake to Westlock it took two days and we moved with horses and some by truck. Our daughter Martha passed away in May 1941. Our son Arthur passed away October 1962. And my wife Johanna passed away Jan. 15, 1983. We had lots of good times as well as hard times but we came through them all.

We retired into the town of Westlock in 1964. I have my family living around the Westlock district. I have twenty-one grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

### **Ora (Boyd) Goodine**

I finished school in 1933 or 1934 and went to work for Don Stanton in his general store. One day, when I had just started working, Slim Guest came in fairly well "oiled" and said "Let me see your underwear." I was utterly humiliated and called Don to see



Garf Boyd, Mrs. Boyd and Ora.



to his needs. Slim had a good chuckle! Another time, Graham Walker took my breath away when he demanded another clerk saying, "I wouldn't have a green horn waiting on me." I was speechless. He was so serious, I believed every word. Westlock had its full share of kidders. However Graham Walker and I later became good friends and bridge buddies.

Mrs. Bentley taught a business course the winter of 1934 and I took it. I stayed at Don's store until I enlisted in 1941 — the 57th girl out of Edmonton. I was posted to various places across Canada with the R.C.A.F. until I was discharged in 1947.

I worked at Lindahl's for a few months before going into training at Lamont Public Hospital. I graduated in 1950 and went into District Health Nursing, first at Hilda and then at Valleyview.

It was here that I met my husband George, a construction engineer with Mannix. We were married in December 1952 and have lived in nearly every province in Canada wherever George's work took him. We finally settled in Mayerthorpe. We have two children, Maureen and Guy. We now have five grandchildren, Timmy and Tammy, Brazel and Jerry, Angela and Guy Goodine.

My first teacher in Westlock was Miss Leake (Ted's sister) who later became Mrs. George Adkins. Len Hergott was another of my early teachers. I have an old letter from Jean Stanton dated September 1928 saying "We have a nice teacher this year. Her name is Miss Sterling." Many of us had her for a teacher.

## The Goodmans and Woodland Hall by Dorothy Durstling

Arthur and Retta Goodman, with Ralph, who was four years old and Dorothy, three, arrived in the Pibroch area in the spring of 1925. The school district was Poplar Knoll and the main place of entertainment was Woodland Hall.

We moved here from Bigstone, Alberta, although our place of business where we did our shopping, went to the Doctor or visited at the hospital was Youngstown, twenty-four miles away. My Dad was English and homesteaded at Bigstone in 1910. He returned to England with the Canadian Army, serving from 1914 to the spring of 1919, when he returned and took Mother to Bigstone as a new bride. At that time, it was truly THE bald prairie and Mother told us in later years that she wondered whether she would ever see green grass or a green tree again. Having come from Ontario at the age of nine, to Red Deer, then later, out to Bigstone, the difference in climate was drastic. Anyway, Dad travelled in the box car with our animals and machinery, and "Pup", our faithful dog, to his destination at Clyde. The rest of us came several days later, also to Clyde, and were

driven by "stage" (perhaps by Charlie Marshall) to the Art Edgson place, on the North-east corner of the cross roads two miles east of Westlock. We stayed overnight and next day travelled to our new home. The dog, hearing our voices, came almost a quarter mile up the road to meet us, wagging his tail! Our home was three miles east and half a mile south of the Pibroch graveyard. That placed us exactly five and a half miles from Pibroch. How marvelous! We could go to Pibroch and back in **one** day. To Youngstown and back had taken us two days, and Mother seldom made the trip, but she hauled lots of grain to Pibroch with the horses and wagon while Dad did other fall work.



Wedding of Bill Durstling and Dorothy Goodman, August 10, 1940. Back row: Jack Sheppy, Johnny Dufresne, Bill Durstling, Dorothy Goodman, Elsie Durstling, Ralph Goodman, Ervin Tober. Front row: Mrs. Ivan Sheppy, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Fred LeBeau, Cecile Dufresne, Mrs. Goodman, Mrs. Carl Durstling, Ruby St. John, Ella Myers (Lane), Carl Durstling, Mrs. Helen Golder. Kneeling: Fred LeBeau, Art Goodman. Sitting: Harry Sheppy, Tom Golder, Robert Tober.

Our neighbors to the north were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Campbell, their two sons Hector and Roy, and daughter, Winnie, who shortly after our arrival, married "Boy" LeBeau. Mr. Campbell, being a teacher, was seldom home. He passed away in the early 1930's and many years later, Mrs. Campbell married Charlie St. Jean. She passed away in January, 1982, at the age of ninety-nine. The farm is now owned by Mrs. Gale. The next farm north was owned by two bachelors, Charlie and Pat Marren. They passed away some thirty years ago, and Shirley and Jerry Schlachter now live there with their family. On the next farm lived the Frances St. Jeans and their daughter, Cecile, who married Johnny Dufresne. I believe the only two wedding dances held in the Hall were for Cecile and Johnnie, and Hector and Lorraine Campbell. Around 1942, the Dufresnes and St. Jeans moved to Giroux-



ville and Mr. and Mrs. St. Jean are still living in the Lodge there. Johnnie died in 1975 and Cecile has since remarried.

Across the road, in 1925 and 1926, lived Clint Anderson. He and his wife have both passed on, but their daughter, Mrs. Gordon (Audrey) Hamer, lives here in Westlock. The Andersons later sold their farm to Charlie St. Jean, brother-in-law of Frances. On the next farm on the east side of the road lived Tom Anderson, an uncle of Clint's. They had come here from the United States, and Tom was a great one for chewing natural leaf tobacco. Many a fire he put out in our old stove, with his spitting! Anyway, he was a middle aged bachelor, and he loved to square dance, so all we young girls learned to square dance, too. He was also very good on the "bones" and often entertained at the lunch break at midnight, at the dances.

Not far from Tom's lived the Dubois family, small people, with two pretty little girls and a boy, all three cute as buttons. Marguerite married Johnnie Thatchuk, but he having passed away, she is now married to Bob Cole, another of our old timers. Fernand (Bertha) married Carl Cole, and I don't know who Narciss married.

A little further north lived the Desranleaus. We didn't see them too often, especially in summer, as that piece of road was terrible. They had a large family, and we still see their names in the local papers. They always attended midnight Mass and I remember Dad accompanying them one year as he and Rudy Renaud were to play their violins and accompany the choir.

Whoever went to Pibroch (or "The Siding" as it was often called) automatically brought everyones

mail, and it was put in a large box with a lid, resembling a trunk, on the north-east corner of the cross roads exactly two miles east of the Pibroch graveyard. People were all honest in those days and no one would have thought of taking anyone else's mail or parcels. If the parcels were too large, then a little note was left, saying to pick it up at Gaston's, Sheppy's, Campbell's or at the home of whoever had made the trip in.

Woodland Hall stood on the north-west corner of this road, and the Legasses, Ferrises, Rainses lived north on this road. Many of you reading this will remember "Daddy Gower", another bachelor, who taught us young girls the two-step. Well, perhaps it was just shuffling around, but when you are five or six years old, you don't care what you are doing as long as you are up on the floor with everyone else. I well remember that the circle two-step was very popular, and I'm sure today's young people would find it good for mixing the crowd up. Leslie Sheppy was our "caller" in those days. He was an uncle to Ivan Sheppy, who teaches and calls square dances now. The caller named the dance, whether it be waltz, two-step or whatever, and unless you were terribly smitten with one girl, you would just grab the one who danced the best and away you went.

When we moved there in 1925, Ernie and Edie Gaston lived around the bend in the road just west of the Hall. Edie's father passed away in those early years, and some of her family usually lived with them at some time or other. I remember Carl went to School from there. It was dark in the winter mornings when we left for school two miles south east of us, but Carl had already walked two miles before that. These were, of course, the Cole boys, and Ed and Earn often came to the dances. An older brother, Ray, had married Nellie Hohnes, and they came, bringing their small son. All the children came to the dances, and when they fell asleep, they were put in with the pile of coats in the cloak room, which was next to the orchestra. They never woke till the music stopped, often at three a.m.

Gardes lived another ¼ mile west of Gastons. I think we got the mail there for a year or two, then they moved into Pibroch, as Mr. Garde ran the Municipal Office. Mrs. Garde still ran the Post Office with Peggy (Mrs. Gordon McGillivray) taking over until the Post Office closed a few years ago. Peggy and Gordon live in Westlock now.

The Calderwoods lived almost three quarters of a mile west of the Hall. Their daughter, Agnes, married Nelson Letts and they moved into the old Garde home. Their son Jim and daughter Dorothy were born there and they later moved to the Sunnybank area.



Picnic at Goodman's, 1957. Back: Ralph Goodman, Bill Durstling. Next row: Earn Cole, Jim Cole, Ron Durstling, Gerald Durstling, Dorothy Durstling (Goodman), Delmer Durstling, Hazel Goodman holding Irene, Hilda Cole. Next row: Art Goodman (in plaid shirt), Mavis Durstling, Joyce Durstling, Pat Cole, Shirley Lane, Loreen Durstling. Front row: Jack Goodman, Ed Cole, "Daddy" Simon Gower, Brian Durstling.



Mother and Dad played for many dances, Dad on the violin, Mother on the piano, Marvin Fosdick (who married Violet Haywood of the Reed Lake district) on the saxophone, Johnnie Legasse on the violin, so we went to many dances from an early age, and many nights fell asleep with music ringing in our ears as they practised at our house. My Mother's Dad and Mother came from Vancouver every second summer and I greeted them with mixed emotions. While the chocolate rosebuds they usually brought were very tasty, it was demeaning to have to stay home while Mum and Dad got ready to go to a dance. Grandma was tall and erect, a former school-teacher, and she knitted all summer, it seemed to me; new feet in our wool socks, new mitts and scarves, but what amazed me was she could read a book, knit and see what we were up to at the same time! Grandpa was shorter and plumper, with red hair and lots of freckles. We could always pick the biggest turnip or carrot and he'd sit in the shade peeling it, then the three of us shared not only the vegetable, but ourselves. They always drank hot water with milk in it. These visits came to a halt with the "Dirty Thirties" but their wonderful Christmas parcels continued to arrive. Dad's mother in England always sent a rich plum pudding, and as the bachelors in the neighbourhood were always invited for Christmas dinner, they too, shared our goodies. Sometimes the Ferris' came as they had no family. Leslie and Ernest Sheppy lived half a mile east of the Hall on the north side of the road and Jack lived a quarter of a mile further on. Mrs. Jack Sheppy taught school in Edmonton, and Barbara and Ivan stayed most of the time with their mother. Harry, the youngest son, spent more time with his father, so we knew him well.

All three men, Jack, Leslie and Ernest, did a lot of work toward building the Anglican Church (which still stands in Jarvie) where the Pibroch graveyard is located. Ernest is most fittingly laid to rest there. Leslie made his coffin and Isobel (Taylor), Leslie's wife, lined it with white satin. Leslie was a good carpenter, and the casket was lovingly made and varnished. They also had a small blacksmith shop on their farm and many of the neighbours went there to pound out their plow shares in the summer.

U.F.A. Meetings were held in the Hall, and Dad was Secretary-Treasurer for several years. He was also on the Hall board for many years. He was Secretary-Treasurer of the Poplar Knoll School from 1926 to 1928 or 1929. It was his job to advertise for a new teacher, and many letters written with beautiful penmanship would arrive in the mail. I probably can't remember all the teachers' names, but I do remember Miss McDonald, Miss Paradise, Miss McAlpine, Mr. Forsyth, Mr. Campbell (of whom I

wrote earlier) and Miss Wallace, who stayed the longest, I believe, as her family lived in the district; actually, across the road from us.

To the south of us lived the LeBeaus (Fred and Jean) with their children, Ruth and David. In those early years there were few fences, and I can remember Celia Murfitt and her son, Jimmy, herding cattle on horseback to the west of us, where the Wallaces eventually lived.

After many years, Mother stopped playing for dances and Mrs. LeBeau took over. The Fosdicks, who had lived a quarter of a mile east of the Hall on the south side of the road, moved back to the United States, and into their home moved Mr. and Mrs. Van Ruskenveld with their two grown sons, Morris (who is now in the Auxiliary Hospital) and Louis. Morris played the violin and Louis was a real whiz on the banjo. Pete Mehr played drums. His Mother and Sister, Susie, lived here in Westlock beside the Lindahls. Susie died in 1951. Pete was married to Oadna LeBeau, one of Zeb LeBeau's daughters. Another daughter, Lyda, became the wife of Wallace Mercier, and in their courting days, attended most of the dances at the Hall. Lyda was very attractive and she and Wallace always looked so happy.

The Legasses had five children; Louis, Delphine, Dora, Agnes and Eugene. In the mid-thirties Fred LeBeau organized a girls softball team in which the Legasse girls played, also the Proulx twins, Leah and Laura (they live around Legal now). Ruth LeBeau also played but I can't remember who else. The community was very proud of them.

When we first moved here, Dad played football with a team from the Clyde and Jeffery area.

As well as playing for dances, Dad was involved with a symphony orchestra in Westlock. It was organized and led by Mr. Hausenburger (he was our Rawleigh dealer), they played classical music. He was a fine musician himself, and I remember they went to Edmonton one Sunday and we listened to them on the radio. I can't recall whether Mr. Stutchbury accompanied them on the piano or not, but I do know Dad often played with "Stutch" at dances in Westlock.

Woodland Hall was a place for family dances. The Davis family of the Reed Lake district often came. Mr. Davis was unable to walk, so two strong men would lift him, chair and all, out of their vehicle and carry him into the Hall, and put him up by the old pot-bellied stove where he could visit with everyone. Nowadays, it would be called "therapy" but in those days it was just plain common sense to get out of the house for a while.

Also from the Reed Lake area came Gordon McGillivray, Johnnie Forbes, Walter Green, (brother



of Mrs. Geo Hope) and yes, George and Olive came too. Also the Haywood twins, Violet and Rosie (they were like two peas in a pod), Dick and Paul Harris and the Carmen Breadners, to name a few. From the Pibroch area came the William McLellans (Allister still lives in this area), the Taylors, Gibsons, the Simon McGregors, the Ted Gowers and their little girls. Ted was working for the McKenzies of Pibroch. Lettie Gibson came to visit her sister Cora, and so met her future husband, Pete Taylor. I can still see her in her red plaid accordion pleated skirt, just flying around the dance floor. Pete passed away many years ago, but Lettie is living in the Park View Place apartments for Senior Citizens, in Westlock.

The Rains family lived north of the Ferris' and we could always count on some of the boys being there to swell the number. Jule worked for several years for Mrs. Campbell, and now lives in Edmonton. Bill lives up by Elbow Lake, Ed lives at Ft. Assiniboine, Jesse (Jet) lives in B.C. Many of the grandchildren still live in Westlock.

In the early 30's, the Rene DeRappard family moved here from Saskatchewan, with their four little daughters; Helen, Tilly, Lila and Ulanda. Mrs. De Rappards brother, Joe Biggeman, came with them and it wasn't long before he and Yvette Lefebvre were seen together at most of the dances. Hence the Joe Biggeman family.

There were no dances during lent, except for March 17th, so we in our corner, the Goodmans, LeBeaus, Jack and Harry Sheppy, Mrs. Campbell and perhaps a visitor or two, met at a different home each Saturday night and played cards; whist, King Pedro, 500 or whatever was wished and we kids also played. As we got older we went to dances and card parties at Reed Lake School, also to dances at Clyde, in much the same spot as the Clyde Hall now stands. The dances were held upstairs, and for ten cents we could dance from nine til midnight.

Inevitably, families grew up, some moved away, peoples values changed and eventually the Hall was no longer used. In the early 1940's Joe Feldman's livery barn in Westlock burned down and so our Hall of which we have so many happy memories, was bought and moved, to the spot right about where the Westlock Hatchery now stands, and it became the new livery barn. I believe Joe Biggeman had the job of moving it.

I've written mostly about Woodland Hall as I expect someone else is writing about the Poplar Knoll School. Just in case they forget, I must mention the Cowleys, who lived ½ a mile west and 1½ miles south of the school. Mr. Cowley was English and a painter by trade. His wife having died, he had two of his daughters living with him, Olive Mrs. Jack

English, of Jarvie) and Dorcas. He always kept the walls of our school beautifully painted. The ceiling was very high, but about two and a half feet above the windows he would paint a design, such as flowers, nursery designs, ducks or whatever took his fancy, all the way around the room. I always thought we had the nicest school, and it smelled so clean and fresh each September 1st, when the school year began.

Good family friends of ours, as we grew older, were Mrs. Myers and Ella (Mrs. Cecil Lane), also the Walter Westermans. Their daughter, Frances, and my Dad, celebrated birthdays on January 13th. They moved to Victoria in the 30's, but Frances and I still correspond and we share the same date for our wedding anniversaries, but not the same year.

Naturally, Ralph and I were growing up also. Ralph stayed home and helped on the farm. In March of 1938 I came to Westlock and worked for Luke Petit, on what is now the Marks Farm, and in 1940 I married Bill Durstling.

Dad's health had deteriorated, and in the fall of 1943 the Doctor advised him to move to a lower altitude. They moved to Vancouver, where they spent many happy years together. Dad didn't die until November, 1964. Mother came back to Westlock for a while but finally settled in Sherwood Park. She is 86 now (1982) and last fall, moved into the Hardisty Nursing Home in east Edmonton.

Ralph had married Hazel Smart of the Sunniebend area in December, 1942. They live here in Westlock and have two children, Jack and Irene.

Jack married Laura Chemerinski of Westlock. They live in Westlock and have two children.

Irene married Joe Hess of Clyde. She works for Bill Lewko at Westlock Farm Equipment, and they have no family as yet.

### **The Gordon Family as told by Ina, Alice and Eva**

The Gordon Family arrived from Scotland, and settled in Sunniebend, in the late spring of 1927. Our father, Bill Gordon, had come out to a farm, under the Soldier Settlement Plan. The farm was one mile from Sunniebend Bridge; not a very good farm, but the folks worked hard, and managed to make a living. When we arrived in Pibroch, Mr. Miller, from the S.S.B. and Forrest Adair, were there to meet us. Forrest came with his small truck, to carry our luggage and some of the family, but somehow or other, our luggage was not put off the train. It stayed on there for the full trip, up to the Peace River and back. We slept on bare mattresses, and wore the clothes we arrived in until the train finally got back to Pibroch, when Forrest had to make another trip, and delivered our belongings safely to our door.





Mr. and Mrs. Gordon.

On our arrival at the farm, Mary Adair and Miss Henley, the school-teacher, welcomed us with some nice hot tea and a plate full of "goodies." We really appreciated their kindness. I guess we were pretty green, but we soon learned to cope with our new life, and all of its changes. The horseflies and mosquitoes were terrible then, but we learned a few defences, such as wrapping newspaper around our legs, under our stockings, also around the arms and pulling our sleeves down to our wrists. That left our faces, necks and hands vulnerable, but a little baking soda and vinegar alleviated some of the itch!

We arrived too late to plant a garden, but Mrs. Marshall and her son Roy, our neighbours, had a big garden which they shared with us, most generously. We were always overwhelmed by the kindness shown to us by our new friends.

The three youngest of the family, Alice, Archie and Eva, attended Sunniebend School, which was vastly different from the school we had all attended in Scotland, but they soon learned to love it, and didn't seem to mind the one and a half mile walk, even in

the winter, when the lunches would be frozen solid in the Rogers Syrup pails. The lunch pails would be left around the heater, and hopefully be thawed out enough by lunchtime, to eat.

The country was quite rough then, and most houses and buildings were built of logs. Our house was no exception, and Mother often said, the thing she missed most was the running water, and other amenities she had taken for granted in Scotland.

There were always lots of activities, summer and winter, such as dances in the school house, skating on the Pembina River in the winter, baseball, basketball, etc., in the summer.



Mr. Gordon and son Archie, 1928.

Charlie and Bea Adair always made us very welcome, and we have all thawed our toes and heels around their heater. Our Dad directed several three act plays, and the practices were held in their home. I am sure some of us will always remember Bill Gordon putting us through our paces, as we struggled to memorize our lines! He had been a Sergeant-Major in the Black Watch during the first World War, and I am sure he thought he was still drilling the regiment!

Our mother, Jean, was determined to learn everything she could about raising chickens, turkeys, and even milking cows. For a woman raised in a large city, we think she did very well!

Jean, our oldest sister, had gone to Toronto two years before we arrived in Canada. We were delighted when she decided to come out west and join the rest of the family. It was a very happy time for us and I still remember how excited we were, awaiting her arrival. She later married Floyd Marshall. They homesteaded in the Linaria district, and when George Plain bought their place, they moved to Jarvie. They retired to Edmonton, where Floyd still lives. Jean passed away in August in 1969.

Hilda married George Beach and their farm was one mile north of Westlock. They had four children,

who all attended school in Westlock. Hilda was very active in the U.F.W.A., and for several years was a very ardent curler.

Frank was nearly sixteen when he came to Canada. He had been apprenticing as a civil engineer, and had graduated from High School. He helped Dad on the farm the first summer, then he joined a surveying crew down around Rocky Mountain House. He joined the Army when the second war broke out, and served all his time in Ontario. He had a medical problem which kept him from going overseas. He married a Calgary girl, and settled in that city after the war, where he was head shipper for Canada Freightways.



Mrs. Jean Gordon, daughter Jean with first child and husband Floyd Marshall.

Ina had also graduated from High School in Scotland, since there were no restrictions as to starting age. She was three years of age when she trundled off to school.

There was very little opportunity to use a high school diploma in the country at that time. She helped out at home, did a lot of sewing for neighbours, and when Mrs. Mac MacDougall was expecting her fifth child, Dorothy, Ina went there to help

out. While there, she met and married Don Sherwin. Ina and Don had four sons and one daughter. They made their home in Burnaby, B.C., where Don died in 1964. Ina later married Bob Craig, and they now reside in Langley, B.C.

Alice married Stanley McDonall, whose family had moved to Dapp from the U.S.A. They later sold their place at Dapp and moved to Larkspur. Alice and Stan lived there, off and on, for a few years, then made their permanent home in Edmonton. They had one daughter, Lois Jean, who trained as a lab technician as well as taking extensive musical training. She has since become a very well known opera singer, with the English Opera Company, singing the lead soprano roles there, as well as singing in private concerts and operas in many of the larger European cities. She makes her home in London, England.

Archie, our younger brother, will be remembered as a bright and happy lad! He trained as a welder after moving to Edmonton with our parents. He volunteered for active duty in the R.C.A.F where he started as one of the ground crew. He later went to Edinburgh University to further his knowledge and became a Flight Engineer. He made many missions in that capacity, until his plane was shot down, during the Battle of Berlin. He was reported missing, then later, presumed dead. It was a terrible loss for all of us, but like so many brave young men, he paid the price for the freedom we all hold so dear. He was twenty-three years of age.

Eva is the youngest of our large family. She attended Sunniebend School for eight of the nine years of her life in Sunniebend. She has many fond memories of that period. She met and married Wally Madu, in Edmonton, where they lived until Wally transferred to Vancouver. They have a son and a daughter, and like most of us now, a few grandchildren, five to be exact. Wally is now retired and they have a nice country home in Surrey, B.C.

It seems a long time ago, when we looked forward to the school house dances, Dad playing the accordion and the Turgeon boys their violins. Later, when the spring thaw put out the Pembina River Bridge the good old neighbours, O. P. Adair, Charlie and Forrest, Pete Pettit, George Plain, our Dad, Carl Antonson, and others whose names escape me now, rescued the timbers, sawed them up at the mill Dad had set up on Charlie Adair's property, and they built the Sunniebend Community Hall. Then began some memorable evenings. The ladies brought cakes or sandwiches, and the men paid 25 cents for admission!

We remember, fondly, Roy Marshall and his mother, the French Canadian Turgeon family, one mile west of us. The old folk spoke no English, and



none of us spoke French, but we brought in many a "Guid New Year" together. There were card parties that lasted sometimes until the wee hours of the morning. Some will remember the night we took our three act play to Clyde! The snow drifts completely covered the road while we were performing. We managed to find our way back to Westlock around 7 am, where Selfridge served us a nice hot breakfast. We still had twelve miles left to go but we managed to arrive home in good spirits. Life was good then, and Sunniebend was a loving, caring Community.

Our parents, Bill and Jean Gordon, farmed there for nine years. They made many friendly ties, which were never broken.

There are three of us left now, from that big Scottish family that arrived in May 1927. With love we recall the past!!!!

Ina (Craig)      Alice (McDonall)      Eva (Madu)

## The Gosches of Clyde

Kathleen MacLachlan

The Gosche family, John and Mary, and their children, Rena, Johnny, Elsie, Emmett, and the twins, Charles (Duke) and Frances decided to leave Chicago. They must have been inspired by the well-known adage "Go West, young man, go West", because they moved first to Montana, then to the Okanagan, then to Shoal Creek, and finally, on August 21, 1911, filed on the homestead, S.E. ¼-20-60-24-W.4, east of Clyde. Everyone except the twins had received his education in Chicago. The

father was a skilled carpenter and bookkeeper. His flawless penmanship was admired by all who read his minutes and public notices for the many secretarial jobs he held.

On the homestead, however, his manual talents were needed to build house, barns, corrals and fences. Farming operations were powered by mules which were also used for family transportation. The sons, Johnny and Emmett did a large share of construction work, and were responsible for most of the chores. Mother Gosche, assisted by Elsie and young Frances had their duties to perform in the kitchen and garden.

John Gosche, Sr. was very versatile. As agent for the Edmonton City Dairy, he operated a cream-testing station in Clyde from 1914 for some years. Farmers brought their cream to be weighed, tested for "flavor" and butterfat before it was shipped via C.N.R. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays to Edmonton.

To the uninitiated it was an educational experience to see Mr. Gosche grimace as he tasted some off-flavor sample of cream! In the next operation, a measured quantity of cream was put into a glass flask with a long neck etched with a Centigrade scale. A measured quantity of sulphuric acid was added which immediately turned a pretty transparent pink. The set of bottles was then clamped into a centrifuge to be whirled several minutes to bring the fat to the top. This was carefully measured on the necks of the flasks with calipers and recorded, with the number of pounds, and the quality of the cream as the basis of payment for the shipment. For years the "cream cheques" were the main source of income for many farm women. Among his other activities, Mr. Gosche worked as carpenter on many of the new buildings being erected in the community. When the Bouchard School District came into being on November 29, 1915, he was the Official Trustee. He was Secretary-Treasurer for the Village of Clyde for a number of years.

Perhaps his greatest venture was his opening of a general store in Clyde, under the name of "J. P. Gosche and Son", in the building first rented and later purchased from Mrs. Olsen. For some time this was a profitable business, but it was, like everyone else, hurt by the depression. After Mr. Gosche's death, Johnny and Emmett ran the store as a partnership (Gosche Brothers), and then as a Red and White business, which changed hands several times before being closed out. Finally, the building was demolished.

During their many years in Clyde, the Gosche boys were avid baseball players. Johnny's father said of him that he would rather play ball than eat. He



Duke and Frances Gosche, on grain separator.



Doug. Gosche and Geo. MacLachlan on the dock at Los Angeles, Jan. 1936.

became a pitcher for the Clyde team and so remained until he left the community. Other members of the line-up were Roy Graham (catcher), and later Gordon Thurston (catcher), Alphonse Courchesne (first base), Emmett Gosche (third base), George Coley (the never-miss centre fielder), Milfred and Melvin Hills and Garth McNelly the crack players from the "sandhills" of Half Way Lake. For years this aggregation took on the Westlock team triggered by Jim Adkins, Leonard Clessen, and Shorty Roch at all sports days in either Westlock or Clyde.

In 1937, Johnny Gosche with his wife Jo and their three young sons moved to Edmonton. He was employed for some time by the C.N.R. Later, during World War II he joined the Armed Forces and went to Britain with the Engineering Corps. After the War, he was employed as a mail carrier in Edmonton, and remained with the Postal Department until his retirement. He and his wife now live in South Edmonton.

Emmett Gosche, his wife, Elsie, and sons Marvin and Frank also moved to Edmonton where he bought and operated Livingstone Glass. Later his sons joined him in this business in which he continued until his retirement. He died in 1967. His sons are still "glass men" with Kinniburgh Glass.

Rena Gosche who married Jim Milligan was for many years chief cook at the Clyde Hotel. Later they moved to the Coast where she lived until her death in 1978. Her son Larry, and her daughter Rosemary, with their families still live in the Vancouver area.

Elsie Gosche who married Stanley Wortman moved back to Chicago where her family still live although both she and Stanley passed away some years ago.

Charles was nick-named "Duke" when he was a little fellow because he had been impressed with the visit of the Duke of Sutherland to the Clyde com-

munity and continually talked about it. The nickname stuck with him, and when he was addressed as "Charles" by his teachers it took him a while to recall whom was being spoken to. As an adult he went to the United States and joined the Marines, and worked on ships out of San Francisco until his retirement. He died a comparatively young man.

Frances married Aime Bernier who became a real estate broker in Edmonton. Widowed and in poor health, she now makes her home with her son, Robert, and his wife, Evelyn, in Sherwood Park.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Gosche, Senior, are buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Clyde.

Herb Gosche, Johnny's second son, is a well-known appliance salesman with Woodward's at Westmount Shopping Centre. Teddy, the third son, works for Grimshaw Trucking Limited.

### Joe and Dinah Gougeon

Joe and Dinah Gougeon, a French Canadian couple, came to the Edison district and purchased the quarter section one-half mile directly north of the Edison School where their three daughters took their entire schooling. Joe was a good farmer and neighbour and Dinah, a beautiful seamstress, always keeping her daughters dressed beautifully with what little people had to work with in those early days while



Joe Gougeon family, taken in 1912. Rita, baby Lilly and Leona.

struggling to build up the farm. She was also quite artistic, one could see the evidence of this by the pictures on the wall and the cushions on the sofa.

Leona, the eldest girl married Alois Zaczkowski and moved to her new home one half mile away. She is a widow now and lives in Calgary.

Rita, the second daughter, married Francis



Kappes and lived near by but Francis passed away seven months later. Rita then married Johnny Wuetherick. They had two sons and one daughter. Johnny is deceased and Rita still lives in Calgary.

Lily married and lives in Idaho U.S.A.

Dinah and Joe left the farm and moved to Edmonton where Joe passed away. Dinah age 97 still lives in Calgary in a home for the elderly, close to her daughters.

## **The Felix Goupie Family**

### **1906 Pioneers**

**by Lena Morin**

**Felix Goupie:**

Born June 4, 1875

St. Helene de Chester, P.Q.

Son of James Goupie and Sarah Beaulieu

Deceased June 8, 1965

**Emeline Garon:**

Born November 16, 1893

St. Bernard, Dorchester, P.Q.

Daughter of Adelard Garon Sr. and Celina L'Heureux

Deceased April 28, 1946

Felix moved, with his parents, at the age of ten from St. Helene to New Market, New Hampshire, U.S.A. Being the oldest of a family of eleven, he received no education and had to help his father who

was a night watchman in the mills. He worked at a very early age in the mills as a weaver on cotton, till the age of 25. At that time, he and a friend, Frank Belval, travelled to Winnipeg and then to the western coast, where they landed in Alaska and the Yukon for four years during the Kondike Gold Rush. There they mined gold on the Eldorado, Henderson Creek and Dominion; probably the hardest work of their lives, with very little reward. They then returned to Seattle, and worked in the lumber camps of British Columbia as fallers for some time. Later they crossed the border into Washington and Montana where they worked for ranchers. It was there, in the spring of 1906, that Felix bought a team and democrat and travelled to Edmonton, St. Albert, Morinville, Riviere Qui Barre and on to the heavily wooded area that later came to be called Pickardville, scouting for a homestead. Travelling was very slow, with mud, axle deep through the bush trails. The Sutherland and Luther Philips families were already in the area at that time. Felix and his friend Frank returned to Edmonton to file on adjoining homesteads, Felix on the SW ¼-34-58 27-W4 and Belval on the SE ¼-34-58-27-W4. In the meantime they also travelled to St. Paul, Alberta, to look for homesteads but my father didn't appreciate the stones in that district, so he and Frank Belval came back to Edmonton and filed on the quarters mentioned. While on a short stay in St. Paul with a Metis family, they suddenly became millionaire overnight with lice! The episode wasn't quickly forgotten but was talked about for years afterwards. The Indians didn't stand too good in my fathers books after that!

On their return that summer, the Franche and Racine families had moved in, settling a couple of miles west of my father's homestead. Mr. Demers and his son Joe, took adjoining homesteads to the west of my father, and Mr. Fradette filed on a quarter a little to the north of Dad's place, so they were all neighbors. All came in 1906. Felix and Frank's first shelter was a tent, until they got a shack built. A certain amount of improvements had to be made each year and the homesteader had to reside on the land for a certain number of days to be able to prove-up and get the title for the homestead. Brushing was all done with an axe, which was very slow as the area was very heavily wooded.

In the winter time my father went out freighting with his team, to St. Paul, and Athabasca, and also for the Grand Trunk Railway from Edmonton to Edson. He later worked on construction in Edmonton, hauling gravel to build the High Level Bridge and Jasper Avenue, and also on the McDougal Hill.

The next fall, Belval and my father returned to Montana to work for the ranchers over the winter,



Felix and Emeline Goupie, 1917.



Emeline Goupie, Lena, Felix and Eddie.

where they each bought four horses to break land on the homestead. They later bought a team of oxen, which they claimed were much better than horses for breaking. The first grain grown was fed to the stock, as the nearest selling point was in Morinville. Grain was bagged in those days, and a trip took two or three days due to the impassable roads. Wheat was taken to Edmonton to be milled into flour, for the year's supply.

Hogs were sold regardless of weight, at Morinville, and they would take as many as they could in one trip, it being so far. Enough groceries, hardware and supplies were brought back to last a year. Their first mail came to Edison, it being the nearest point. In 1907 Mr. Pickard opened Pickardville Post Office



Mr. Felix Goupie feeding his hogs in the early pioneer days.

in his home, one quarter mile west of what is now the Clem Cloutier coal mine. One cold winter night the Pickard home burned down, and the mail was taken over by the Demers, as they had a store, two miles further west. When the railroad went through in 1913, grain could be loaded into box cars at the track and shipped out. In 1918 the Gillespie elevator was opened and farmers could then haul their grain there. It was then that Pickardville village was moved to its present location. Mr. Demers built a new store, and still had the Post Office. Dr. Philips, from Westlock served this area at that time. In the summer of 1919, the Royal bank was built, so my father did his business there. After eleven years of "batching", my father gave up his single life and married Emeline Garon in April, 1917. Emeline had come to Pickardville in 1909 with her parents, at the age of fourteen. They had resided one year in Morinville and previously in Quebec. Being the oldest in the family, she helped her father with the farm work until she got married. They were married in the first little St. Philip Pickardville Church, on the correction line, by Rev. N. Chartrand. They were blessed with four children, two of which died in infancy, leaving Lena, born March 13, 1918, and Eddie, born February 8, 1922. Lena and Eddie took their education in Pickardville Public School in the village. Some of the families that they attended school with were the Sutherlands, Glebes, Gillmores, Woodleys, Measures, Garons, Hills, Morasses, Townsends, Smiths, McMahons, Elstocks and Thibeaults. Many fond memories have stayed with us through the years and very few of the students reside still in Pickardville. Ball games of all kinds were played at the school. Eddie enjoyed baseball and played on the Junior and Senior teams for a number of years.

In the early twenties, a thresher and steam engine were bought by three farmers who formed a partnership to thresh their crops. They were Mr. Goupie, Mr. Belval and Mr. Garon. Around 1925, my father bought a new 36 inch thresher of his own. He threshed for sixty days one year, going from farmer to farmer in Pickardville, Eastburg, Highridge and Arvilla areas. In 1924 my father built a small log house half way on the farm, where the water was more plentiful. This was where we were brought up. In the fifties this same house was moved to its present location, where Eddie still lives. Eddie is one of the few who still reside on his fathers homestead. In 1925, my father also acquired a small sawmill, and sawed on the Lacroix farm. The lumber was used to build sheds, granaries etc.

In 1926 my father expanded the farm to a half section by purchasing the old Marler place, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ -27-58-27-W4. Another quarter east of Pick-



ardville, NE¼-29-57-26-W4, was acquired around 1928-29, when the school sections were sold. My father then bought a caterpillar tractor with a breaking plow to break this last quarter. Help had to be hired in order to get all the farming done. He did mixed farming, had pigs in the early years, and expanded to cattle then had sheep for a few years. Due to my mother's failing health, all livestock was sold in 1940 to lessen the farm work. A second tractor was bought, as by this time Eddie was farming with his father. Due to lack of help during the war years, my father bought a combine, doing away with the threshers.

In the spring of 1938, Lena married Albert Morin.

Tragedy hit the family when our mother passed away in the spring of 1946 at the age of 52. Interment took place in Pickardville St. Benedict Cemetery. As my father was in his seventies, he rented the farm to Eddie and left for the coast for five years, where he again met up with Frank Belval. Soon after that he returned to stay with Eddie until his passing in June 1965, at the age of ninety. In 1936, and again in 1961, he visited with his family in the eastern states.

As a young man he was very fond of big game hunting and always returned with a good supply of game. Being a good shot, many a coyote lost its pelt!

The entertainment in the earlier years consisted of visiting, house parties, dances in the school and hall, pie and box socials, picnics, concerts and card playing. My father had a good singing voice, though none of his children followed in his footsteps. He was one of the first to get a wet and dry cell battery radio with the floor type horn speaker. His descendants still have it and it is now an antique.

Eddie still resides on his father's homestead and farms a half section. Still a single man, he enjoys fishing and hunting big game every fall.

## **The Gordon Gower Family in Westlock by Ruth Gower**

Gordon and Ruth moved to Westlock in 1952, with daughters Barbara, and Betty and son John, from Larkspur, Alberta.

Gordon went to work in the Ford garage for a few years, then in 1955 he got the job of milkman for Northern Alberta Dairy Pool, which at that time supplied the town with dairy products. He worked two years with the horsedrawn van, and for the next twelve years with the truck. In the meantime, our son Edward (Ted) was born.

Barbara graduated from Westlock High School and then took an X-ray laboratory course. She later married Arnold Schmode and they raised a family of



Gordon Gower with the motor delivery van, 1957.

four children: — Mona, Douglas, Richard and Frederick. They make their home in Pickardville.

Betty married Carl Johnson and had a family of three. William is living in Redcliff, while the other two boys are living with their mother in Medicine Hat.

John married Stephanie Batog. They have three children, Wayne, Tammy and Brooks. John works for Northwestern Utilities and lives in Oyen, Alberta.

Ted married Ann Samis and has one little boy, David. Ted lives in Westlock and is a trucker.

In 1968, Gordon worked for the Municipal District of Westlock, with Lloyd Davis. Then, in 1969, he started working for the Westlock School division as a custodian, a position he held until his retirement in 1975.

Gordon has always been interested in wood carving and has many fine models of horsedrawn wagons and sleighs which he has shown at fairs and exhibitions. He and Ruth do a lot of camping now that they have the time, enjoy hobbies, and life in general.



Gordon Gower with horse delivery wagon. 1955.

**Thomas H. Gower**  
**by Ruth Gower**

This story started back in Owen Sound, Ontario, when Thomas Henry Gower married Eliza Anne Cleverly on the twenty-fourth of December, 1902.

Tommy, as he was known, worked in a chair factory, but decided to move west as times were hard. He came as far as Edmonton and worked there, during which time he filed on a homestead five miles south of Westlock, (five miles south of nowhere at that time).

He went back to Ontario, and brought Annie and two sons, Albert and Edward (Ted) to Edmonton. In the meantime, Jack was born. When he was only two weeks old, they headed for their homestead, along with John Campo, his wife and three youngsters, Ernie, Clifford and Elva. The covered wagon, drawn by oxen, in which they travelled from Edmonton, belonged to Len Herman, who was homesteading in the same area. They brought three stoves and other needed things. The persons who were able, walked. Every time they came to a mud hole, they had to unload everything and carry it across the mud. It took them two weeks to arrive at their new home. This was in 1912.



Gower family on the farm.

They had to dig a well, build a shack, to get ready for winter. The well was sheeted up with inch lumber and was later used as a cooler.

Their first cow that they bought was so old they had to feed her chop, but they started their herd from her. Then they bought a horse, harness and democrat for \$75. In the meantime, the railroad went through and the village of Westlock got its start in 1913-1914.

Then in 1916, Gordon Brooks Gower was born. Annie did washing for different families in Westlock and Tommy lathed and plastered houses. A number of the houses are still standing.

They had thirteen gates to open to get from the farm to Westlock.

In 1931, three of the boys were married: Albert to Sadie Gannon, and they raised a family of three, Jim, Jean and Eileen.

Ted married Mildred Price and they raised five girls: Alfretta, Yvonne, Gwen, Audrey and Edwaredina.

Jack married Charlotte Jones.

Gordon married Ruth Peterson in 1938, and they raised a family of two girls and two boys: Barbara, Betty, Johnny and Teddy.

Annie was a lifetime member of the Women's Institute. She and Tommy celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on the farm, then moved the house into Westlock shortly afterwards.

Tommy passed away in 1960 and Annie in 1970 at a home in Edmonton. Jack died in 1980 and Sadie in 1982.

**James and Myrtle Green**  
**by Olive Hope**

Myrtle Forbes was born at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan on May 24th, 1886. She later moved to Regina with her parents. Her father was one of the early North West Mounted Police, coming to Fort Walsh in 1877. Myrtle came to Edmonton in 1905. She worked in Government House as an upstairs maid and later as a waitress at the Cecil Hotel. While in Edmonton, she met James Green and they were married on May 20, 1909. Jim was born in England on May 24, 1883. He came to Edmonton about 1906. He worked for a time as drayman for the C.N.R. and later worked for the city market. While in Edmonton, one daughter, Olive was born on May 12, 1910, and a son, Walter, was born on June 15, 1914.

Jim always had a "yen" for farming, so in 1916 he bought two quarters of land from Dan Ertman; NE¼ 17-60-25 W4 and the SW¼ 17-60-25 W4,



The Greens and Roy Cole leaving the Dungannon Church about 1918. Mrs. Green and Walter Green in back seat. Mr. Green and Roy Cole in front.



where he farmed until 1934. This was in the Clyde area. While in Clyde, daughter Doris was born, on February 8th, 1922.

Jim was an active member of the United Farmers of Alberta. He was quite athletic, too, and always played football with the Clyde team. He had a nice herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle. The family showed vegetables, chickens and calves at Westlock Fall Fairs, and calves and ponies at the Edmonton Spring Show. Quite a few prizes were brought home.

In 1924 a new house was built, and a barn in 1928. A few good dances were held in the loft of the new barn.

In 1934 the Greens decided, to sell and move back to Edmonton, where Jim would work in the city market again. The farm was sold to W. G. Woods. After they went to Edmonton, Mr. and Mrs. Green adopted a little girl; her name is Evelyn.

Jim worked in the market until his retirement. Myrtle passed away in February of 1957, and Jim passed away on Christmas Eve 1959. Both were buried in Edmonton. Son Walter lives in Vancouver and has one boy and one girl. Daughter Olive lives in Westlock, and has two daughters, Doris and Evelyn, both living in Edmonton. Doris has three girls and Evelyn has two boys and two girls.

## **Richard John (Dick) and Julia Green and Family** by Dorothy

Dad was born in 1898 at Newborra, Ontario. With his family, John Robertson Green and Mary Ann and four brothers and two sisters he moved to Sunnyside district northwest of Edmonton in early 1900.

Dad and his brothers and sisters took their schooling at New Hunnon School near Gibbons, Alberta.

He served in the first World War and spent time in France where he was wounded in the back and leg. He was with the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

On returning he took a homestead NE¼ 33-55-23-W4.

Mom, Julia Killack was born at Melville, Saskatchewan in 1904; her birth certificate says Melville, N.W.T. as Saskatchewan wasn't a province then.

She had three sisters and four brothers. Her father had passed away in a flu epidemic. Since she was too far from a school, she received only a grade three education.

Dad met Mom at Bon Accord and they were married in July, 1926.

As the years passed, children (lots of them) arrived. Olive in 1927, Dorothy 1928, Pat 1929, Wesley



Dick and Julia Green family — January 1974. Back row: Dorothy, Lloyd, Wesley, Jim and Pat. Middle row: Olive, Francis, Mom, Helen, Leona. Bottom row: Phyllis, Delma, Josie and Orna.

1930, Francis 1931 and Lloyd in 1933. All were delivered at home by Dad's second mother (Francis Mary Houston) who was a midwife.

Dad's father was killed by a bull in early 1933 and Grandma died shortly after.

In the spring of 1935 Dad sold out and moved to the Hazel Bluff area where he bought the Crawford farm one mile west of the Hazel Bluff Church. One quarter was there and the other quarter was across from the church.

Olive, Pat and I finished our schooling for that term in Westlock.

We had to walk to the church and meet up with the other kids and Mr. Brown would come with his black bus and take us to Westlock.

In the fall term it was decided by the school board that we had to go to Riverdale which was two miles north of our place.

Our closest neighbors Wilfred Days family; Jim, Elmer, Allan and June; the George Guests — George 3rd, Bob and Ted; Manford Ried family — there were two boys and Shirley was Olive's age. The Clapps land joined ours on the north.

On going to school we would often have to wait for the janitor to open the door. We could all run like deer. Bruce Smith would pick up the teacher at McDougalls house and then go to the school, open the door, get the fire going and put the horse in the barn.

The one thing that sticks uppermost in my mind is the time Miss Deverall lined up 17 of the kids and strapped them for playing hookey; ten on each hand.

We had an infestation of bed bugs and had to

move out of the house into two granaries. Mom and Dad fumigated the house. Wesley told the kids at school what happened and during his early years his nickname was "Bed Bug".

Mom had to have help and we had hired girls and in the fall, hired men.

Leona was born in 1936 and Helen in 1937. Phyllis arrived in 1939.

The highlights of our childhood was harvest time and Thanksgiving suppers at the church and Christmas concerts at the school. We had entertainment at Rossington Hall, Festival Competitions at Westlock between the schools and Sunday suppers with home-made ice cream.

Riverdale School won many awards for singing.

Rossington Hall was the center for entertainment for the whole family and everyone took part. Marilyn Munsterman was a tap dancer and very good.

Mom was asked if we would put on a skit so we did "Mother Cat and three little kittens". Pat still laughs about this.

Mom would whistle and this went over very well.

Dr. Mason was our doctor and he would stop at our place when we called. In 1939 we got whooping cough and had to be quarantined. Mom had been told by Dad's second mother about mare's milk, so everyday Jim Day would bring us mare's milk. It was very sweet. We would wrap our stockings around our throats and we all got over this.

We used to think it was great when the Rawleigh

or Watkins man came around. Mom would buy her spices and vanilla and Dad would get his liniments for our cows and horses and we would get gum.

One Sunday in the winter it was very cold out and we had missed several Sunday School sessions. Olive, Pat, Wesley and I went. Wesley froze his ears very badly. The minister brought us home and Wesley's ears were dripping water. Mom put some coal oil in a pan and made it lukewarm and put it on cloths on Wesley's ears. The swelling came down and they peeled a bit but they didn't get too sore.

In the spring of 1941 we moved to Westlock. Dad increased the bees to 200 hives and later on to 500 hives.

The war was on and a lot of things were rationed — sugar, meat, tea, coffee, butter and certain groceries but we had extra coupons and Mom would help out people when she could.

Dad built a barn and we kept two cows. We had a big garden. Anything we couldn't use was given to the hospital.

Delma was born in 1942 and was always sick. Dad finally sold the cows and bought three nanny goats; Delma could digest the milk. Us older ones sure didn't like it on porridge.

In 1942 the U.S.A. Army came to town and installed repeater stations for sending messages all the way to Alaska. They had stations every fifty miles and this caused a stir among the ladies in the town.

Us older girls had to take harvest leave from school so we could help Dad as he couldn't get hired help.

Josey was born in 1944, Jim in 1945 and Lorna in 1946. Mom had her baker's dozen — 13.

If anyone in town was looking for their children, all they had to do was come to our place. Sometimes we would set the table for seventeen or twenty people.

Olive, Pat and I would take turns doing the dishes, cooking, setting the table, making the beds and cleaning up the bedrooms. On Saturday whoever did the cooking, washed the kitchen floor and the dining and living room and also made the beds, did the floor upstairs and hallways. If you didn't get your work done, you didn't go out.

In the summer months I worked in the cafe for Wolsey Clark, Pat at the egg grading station and Olive went to B.C. to pick fruit.

One summer Olive worked in Jasper at the hospital. Bing Crosby was there and she served him breakfast.

I also looked after Marlene and Bookey Whissell as on Wednesday Dr. and Mrs. Whissell would go to Legal.



Julia Green, C.F.R.N. Search for Talent Show — Westlock.



In April 1957 Dad sold out and moved the family to Port Alberni, B.C. where he operated a store until 1966.

In the fall he enjoyed coming to the Peace River country hunting geese and ducks.

Dad passed away very suddenly on January 25, 1974 and Mom still resides in Port Alberni.

She is very active travelling, loves dancing and still whistles while she works.

Olive married Tom Richardson and lives in Port Alberni, B.C. They have 2 children and 1 grandchild.

Dorothy married Red Hofferd and lives in Valleyview, Alberta. They have one son and three grandchildren.

Pat married Bob Leyser and lives in Airdrie, Alberta. They have one daughter and three grandchildren.

Wesley married Eva and lives at 100 Mile House, B.C. They have six children and one grandchild.

Francis married John Cowan and lives in Parksville, B.C. They have seven children and eleven grandchildren.

Lloyd married Marion (divorced) and he now lives in Port Alberni, B.C. They had two children.

Leona married George Byers and lives at Peace River, Alberta. They have four children and three grandchildren.

Helen married Herb Pollach and lives in Edson, Alberta. They have four children and three grandchildren.

Phyllis married Ron Hanson and lives in Port Alberni, B.C. They have three children and no grandchildren.

Delma married R. Owens and lives in Port Alberni, B.C. They have four children and two grandchildren.

Josie married Bob Graham and also lives in Port Alberni, B.C. They have four children.

Jim married Jane and lives in Port Alberni, B.C. They have four girls.

Lorna married Ron Hills and lives in Port Alberni, B.C. They have three children.

## The Greenfield Family

Four generations of the Greenfield family have lived in the home built originally by Herbert Greenfield on SW 20-59-26-4 in 1904. Herbert was born in Wischester, England, left school to work for a grain shipping firm in London, then came to Canada in 1892. He worked in Ontario as a hired man, also cut and hauled logs to a furniture factory. In 1900, he married Elizabeth Harris of Strathroy, Ontario, and farmed for two years before coming west to Edmonton.

Leaving Edmonton, Herbert came to Westlock



Standing, L to R: Frank Greenfield, Mrs. J. Alton, Herbert and Elizabeth Greenfield, Roy Alton, Arnold Greenfield. Seated: Dolly and Jim Alton in front of Greenfield home.

and worked at a sawmill south of Rossington as a sawyer, taking his wages in lumber. At this time, his wife and two small sons, Frank and Arnold arrived from Ontario. They lived in an abandoned trapper's cabin two miles east of Westlock. A bush fire destroyed the mill and lumber and the mill had to be rebuilt. Herbert now filed on a homestead SW 20-59-26-4 and during the summer built a log barn, cleared some land and planted a small crop. When fall came, the family went back to the mill and Herbert again worked as a sawyer while Elizabeth cooked — again taking wages in lumber used to build the house.

Herbert was active in community affairs as secretary-treasurer of the school board and president of the Agricultural Society. He was also instrumental in building Wood Glen School. As well, he helped organize the building of the first elevators in Westlock.

Herbert was president of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and became active in the United Farmers of Alberta movement, eventually becoming vice-president of this organization. When the U.F.A. came into power in 1921, he was asked to accept the premiership, taking a Peace River seat. Unfortunately, his wife did not live to enjoy this period as she died in 1922.

In 1925 he turned the office of premier over to J. E. Brownlee who had been his attorney-general. After his retirement, Mr. Greenfield served Alberta as agent-general in London from 1927-1931. On his return to Alberta he became associated with the petroleum industry, acting as director of Home Oil, also president of the Alberta Petroleum Industry and as managing director of the British Dominions Land Settlement Corporation. During this period Mr. Greenfield remarried to the former Mrs. Marjorie

Cormack. In later years, they often returned to the family farm for a visit. Herbert died in August of 1949.

Herbert's son, Frank Sr., left the farm in 1927 and went to Nanaimo where he was employed as Wild Life Officer. Frank and his wife Minnie have four children, Betty, Bill, Marjorie and Michael. They now are retired and still live in Nanaimo in a beautiful home overlooking the ocean.

Herbert's youngest son Arnold married Leona Himburg in 1928 and they farmed with Arnold's son Frank and his wife Joyce until Arnold's death in 1979. Leona still lives on the home place in a home built in 1957 while Frank's family still lived in the old home.



Arnold and Leona Greenfield in front of family home, 1928.

Leona still is active gardening and baking, also travelling a great deal. She spends much time relating stories of the old days especially about hard times in the 30's and the threshing crews. Leona recalls, "For many years we had stookers and also threshing help from the Dapp area. Young men starting homesteads often came to work. If help was needed, Joe's Barn in Westlock was the place to try especially early in the morning. At this time farmers from Saskatchewan packed up wagons and left the drought-stricken area, many of them resting here. The horses' feet were sore so Arnold would work on the feet and shoe them before they left. They always had starving dogs so they would be fed chop cake (Chop mixed with bacon grease and baked). The threshing crews worked hard and breakfast had to be a huge meal — porridge, pancakes, bacon and eggs, fried potatoes, fruit and of course Roger's Syrup. We often had hired girls during these times to give a hand. Those were the days when we made our own fun having house parties — the children were always taken. Old timer's night was a family affair. The good old days — just memories now."

Leona and Arnold's son Grant and his wife live in Waterloo where Grant is Manager of Speer Carbon



Frank, Grandson of Herbert Greenfield, son of Arnold, in democrat bought 1913 when railroad went through Westlock. Herbert Greenfield hauled groceries from Clyde.

having trained at the Calgary Technical School in electrical engineering. They have a son Allen who is engaged in construction work and a daughter Suzanne, who is attending college in Toronto.

Frank Greenfield married Joyce McCutcheon in 1957 and they still are farming the family farm. Their daughter, Carol Maertz, is a teacher married to Kim Maertz, a Psychologist, living in Spruce Grove. Jim, the eldest Greenfield son, is attending the University of Alberta, taking Commerce and Computer Science. Neil, the youngest son, is attending the University Of Alberta, specializing in Agriculture and Economics. Only time will tell if there will be a fifth generation living on SW 20-59-26-4.

## The Gregorwich Family by Marilyn Gregorwich

After discharge from World War II, Peter Gregorwich and his brother Steve, arrived in Edmonton to look for farms together. Joint farms just weren't available at that time so Steve bought in Kelsey and Peter in Westlock. Having bought the NW6-59-26-W4 from the St. Arnaud family of Vimy, Peter, Mary and Marilyn moved out from Edmonton on April 8, 1947. After trucking our belongings out from Edmonton on Highway 2, which was then a gravel road, we turned onto the correction line. We got as far as Myron Cannard's farm and the truck bogged down. Peter walked to Philip Bilodeau's farm and they hooked up a hay rack behind the big John Deere tractor, and transported our belongings across Bilodeau's field to our home. Our Road was filled in with snow drifts. No snow plows then!! Our car was also towed to Bilodeau's and stayed there for another month, as we couldn't get out, except on foot. We farmed on that quarter until 1963, when Peter had a heart attack. We then sold the south quarter. We farmed the north quarter until 1969 when, due to ill



health, Peter decided to retire from farming. We spent a year in Westlock, then moved to Edmonton. Peter is a commissionaire at the A.G.T. building and Mary is a secretary in the Real Estate business.

Peter was active in the community, as a weed inspector, school trustee, worked at the seed cleaning plant, for the Municipality, was also president of the local telephone company etc. Mary worked for Perrin Agencies, Triple J Auction Mart, Rennie & Kobie, to name a few. Two children were born in Westlock, Murray in 1949 and Shirley in 1953.

Marilyn took up Education and is a teacher in Calgary, specializing in "Special Education." She has her Masters in Psychology, is married and has 2 children. Murray entered the oil fields, was a specialist in setting high pressure valves. He changed to the Gas field and came back to Westlock as Supervisor of Merland Explorations Gas operations in Westlock and Valleyview. He was killed in a motor vehicle accident on December 6, 1981. He has one son. Shirley lives in Edmonton, is married and has two children. She attended Alberta College, and is Office Manager in a real estate office.

## The George E. Greig Family by Marie Greig

July twelfth was the day! 1965 was the year that Greig Printing and Stationery Ltd. first opened doors to citizens of the Westlock area. From a modest beginning and a floor space of about six hundred



George Greig family. Standing: Penny, George, Lerena. Seated: Marie, Kevin, Valerie.

square feet, the firm has steadily expanded its operations, until today it occupies some thirty-five hundred square feet in the modern premises. Everything from a rubber stamp to a complete office supply

service are available at the local level. This includes all types of custom printed forms and general office requirements as well as complete furnishings for offices.

Greig Printing and Stationery Ltd. was founded firstly as a printing house and almost immediately became involved in the general office supply field as a supplement.

Hub Publishers was also founded as a subsidiary of Greig Printing and Stationery in April 1968 but due to the increasing demands of the original operation, the Hub was consequently sold to Mr. Carl Muller.

George Greig was born at Didsbury, Albert and at an early age moved with his family to a farm near Trochu. He commenced his printing career at Trochu in 1951. George also worked in Calgary, Innisfail and Wetaskiwin where he was a foreman of Wetaskiwin News-Advertiser for over ten years before moving to Westlock.



Interior of Greig Printing, George behind counter.

Marie Greig (nee Scarlett), partner of the firm, spent her younger years in and around Innisfail and worked as assistant Secretary-Treasurer for the Town of Innisfail before moving to Wetaskiwin.

We, Marie and George, have three girls and one boy. Valerie is working in Edmonton, Penny is married to Leland Rasmussen and has three children, Greg, Deanna and Kristy-Lynne. Lerena is in Westlock, and Kevin is still going to school and at home.

I, (Marie) have been active in the community with the Westlock Kinettes as treasurer for one year and also with the Legion Auxiliary being president for some three years.

George was a member of the Westlock Kinsmen in its active years, is past secretary of the Westlock and District Chamber of Commerce and a past treasurer of the Westlock Lions Club of which he has a ten year perfect attendance record. He has also been

active in Municipal Affairs, sitting on the Westlock Municipal Planning Commission for seven years and as chairman for same over five years.

This community and area has been good to us and we feel very much a part of its history and are proud to be able to call Westlock "Home".

## **Richard H. Grant**

**by Lois W. Grant**

Born in Sussex, England, Richard H. (Dick) Grant came to Alberta in 1912 and homesteaded in what is now known as the Sunny Bank district on the SE¼-33-60-1-W5, where he lived and worked until the first World War. He served overseas with the Sappers Division of the 218 Battalion of Edmonton, in France.



Dick and Lois Grant.

After the war he returned to his farm where he was joined by his brother William and later, by his sister Annie, who later became Mrs. George Jenkins.

He worked his own farm and also that of his brother, Will, which was on the opposite side of the Pembina River, and later he share-cropped the farm of the late Edgar C. Boon. He subsequently married the widowed Mrs. Boon and lived on the farm till his death from a brain tumor in May, 1942.

## **William Grant**

**by Lois Grant**

William Grant was born in Sussex, England and came to Canada in 1913 to join his brother Dick, in the Sunny Bank district. He homesteaded on a quarter section of land on the west side of the Pembina River and lived there until his brother Dick returned home from the War. He lived with his brother and sister and rented out his own farm to a neighbour, Gerry Dyk.

He brought his bride from England in 1926, but she died in childbirth the following year.

Sometime later his late wife's sister came out from England and they were married and lived on Dick's farm.

He was a faithful warden of the Sunny Bank Anglican Church. He died suddenly from a heart attack on the eve of their departure for a holiday in England. His wife, Ethel, returned to England but later came back to live in Westlock, where she married Peter Abernathy. She died in 1971.

## **John Gray Family**

**submitted by Brian and Myrtle Gray**

John Gray, one of a family of fifteen, was born in Virden, Manitoba, November 8th, 1897. The family moved to a ranch at Carbon, Alberta when John was seven years old. He served in the First World War in the "Lord Strathcona Horse" a cavalry unit.

The family moved to the Marwayne district in 1918. Following his active service John worked on ranches and was a successful Rodeo cowboy; he took first money on many occasions in the "Saddle Bronc" riding.



John and Estelle Gray, 1940.



His wife, the former Estelle Wachter, was born in Newberry, Michigan in 1902. The family moved to a Lea Park homestead in 1913. She was one of eight children.

The Gray's had five children and farmed in the Marwayne district from 1924 to 1938, the family then moved to Westlock where John established a Watkin's dealership.

The four younger children attended Westlock Composite school. Because of a severe housing shortage the family lived in the old Westlock Cafe on what is now 107th Street the first winter, then moved across the street to "Amos Photography" where they opened a confectionery store for one and a half years. They then moved to an acreage two and a half miles west and north of Westlock where they resided until they moved into a new home on 105th Street in Westlock in the spring of 1945. The home was built for the Gray's by Wm. McIntosh & Sons (Bill and Doug).

The boys were active in hockey and baseball and John was always supportive of his children's endeavors — on one occasion he drove the entire Pee-Wee hockey team, complete with sticks and equipment to Barrhead in the family sedan.

Estelle has been active in the United Church, belonged to the Toastmistress Club for two years and served as President of the Legion Auxiliary and the United Church Women. John was an active curler and both John and Estelle were active golfers. John served as the President of Westlock Golf Club and Estelle is still an active member of the Westlock Golf Club.



John Gray Family. Back row: Lorne, Estelle, John and Myrtle. Front row: Don and Brian, 1941.

John retired from the Watkin's business in 1960, for the next ten years he worked in the office of Gray Sheet Metal for his son Lorne. The couple also built and managed an apartment building on 105th street from 1955 to 1974.

John died in May of 1970 and Estelle is now living in Parkview Place, Westlock. She has nineteen grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

The eldest son Melvin (Buster) married Betty Dyk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Dyk of Westlock. Mel (Buster) operated the first general trucking company from Edmonton to Peace River under Gray Carriers for many years. He is now retired in Edmonton.

Lorne married Lois Lowe, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Lowe of Eastburg, Alberta. Lorne operated Gray Sheet Metal in Westlock for many years and now works for Alberta Housing.

Myrtle married Don Walls, son of Mr. J. Walls of Edmonton. Myrtle is now with Early Childhood Services and teaches in Spruce Grove.

Brian married Jeanette Oulette of Pickardville and later married Barbara Rode of Westlock. Brian began working for Pembina U.F.A. Co-operative Ass'n. Ltd. After he finished school and has been General Manager for the past ten years.

Don married Sally Volk of Clive, Alberta. Following her death, he is now married to Verna of the Regina district, Saskatchewan. Don worked in the early years on oil exploration for a seismic crew and later for Calgary Power. He now lives at Rocky Mountain House and works at a home as a Councilor for problem children.

### William and Annie Gray

William Gray emigrated from Stirling Scotland to Winnipeg Manitoba in 1905. After working for farmers in the area he rented some farmland and had his fiancée join him. William Gray and Annie Coyne were married in Winnipeg and resided for twelve years on a farm near Sanford, Manitoba. While living in the Sanford area they had four children, James, Margaret, Norman and Alexander, the two last sons died in infancy.

In 1917 William and Annie moved to the Westlock area with their two children James and Margaret. They rented land for six years and then purchased the quarter section N.W. 17, Range 26, Township 59, West of the 4th. Two more sons, Donald and Russel, and a daughter, Kathleen, were born.

Bill (William) Gray lived on this land until his death in 1941. His eldest son, James, took over the farm and his mother, Annie, lived with him until her death in 1954. In 1970 Jim sold the farm, all but forty acres, and moved into Westlock. After living in town





William and Annie Gray.

for six years he found town life not to his liking and moved, along with his sister Kathleen, back to the forty acres he had kept of the original farm. Jim worked for the Westlock School Board for fifteen years before retiring in 1980.

Margaret graduated from the Vegreville School of Nursing in 1934. She worked for a number of years in the North Country; Yellowknife, Fort St. John, Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupé. In 1949 she returned to the Edmonton Area and worked as a resident nurse in the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institute for twenty-six years; she then retired and moved to Edmonton where she continues to work part-time for the Alberta Government Clinic. Margaret was nominated Nurse of the Year in 1982.

Donald married Mary Breadon of Pickardville. They reside in Edmonton and have three children, two sons and a daughter. Donald worked for the Edmonton School Board until his retirement in 1980 terminating twenty-five years of work.

Russel married Florine Siebert of Busby, they have two daughters and one son. Russel had been employed by the Edmonton School Board for twenty-six years. Their two daughters live in the Edmonton Area and their son Darrel lives in Wetaskiwin.

Kathleen makes her home in Westlock with her brother Jim and is employed at the Pembina U.F.A. Co-operative Ass'n. Ltd. where she has worked for twenty years. Kathleen has a daughter living in Cochrane, and two sons residing in Edmonton.

## William and Lena Gurney

by Phyllis (Gurney) Twidt

My Dad and Mother, William and Lena Gurney, homesteaded in the Jeffrey district, where my three brothers and myself were born. Waugh was the nearest post office at that time.



Will and Lena Gurney, friend and Syd Gurney. Pibroch farm.

Dad served in the First World War, having joined the Army in 1917, in Vancouver. He rented his farm to Bob Moffat while he was in the Army. Mom and we children lived in Edmonton. We all had the 'flu during the 1918 epidemic, but we managed to overcome it and were able to greet Dad when he returned from the Army that year. He got a job working at the Calder Yards for the Grand Trunk Railway. He sold his homestead in the fall of 1919 and moved to California in the spring of 1920. For several years he worked for the railroad and the Power Co., and Mom worked in an overall factory. She also worked in a cookie factory some of the time, to help out with the finances. However, economic conditions were not any too good, so a decision was made to move back to Alberta.

They packed up some of their belongings and headed for Edmonton, arriving there in April, 1924.



Len, Reg, Phyllis, Syd and Mom Gurney, 1926.



Dad then went out to the Pibroch area and bought a quarter-section of land from Jimmy Murfitt, that was formerly Hugh McGregor's homestead. Having completed the deal, Dad and the boys went back to Edmonton, and bought a team of horses, a wagon and some household goods. They loaded all their purchases in the wagon, climbed aboard and started the sixty mile trek to the farm. The first night they camped out in the Legal area, and the second night, as the horses were getting tired, they made camp two miles north of Westlock. The following day they covered the final six miles of the journey. Mom and I came by train to Clyde where we were met by her father, Mr. Matthew Karmann, who drove us out to the farm in his democrat with a driving team.



William Gurney ready for town.

There were only a small shack on the farm at this time, and as there were six of us, extra room was a necessity. Jim Vanalstine had a saw-mill not far from our place, so Dad and the boys went there and got some boards with which they built a lean-to on the south side of the shack, so that the boys would have a place to sleep. Later, when we were more settled Dad got some lumber from Westlock and had a fine two-storey house built. A barn and chicken house were also built; these both had sod roofs. A granary was also built. All the buildings were in use for many years.

For our water supply, a well was dug by hand, using a windlass and rope to haul up the buckets of dirt. Almost every farm well in the area was dug this way. We didn't have a drilled well until the fall of 1939.

Mom always had a nice flock of chickens and turkeys. We milked cows and sold cream, and Dad always had pigs to sell.

There were only about 16 acres broken on the farm when we took over the place, but Dad and the boys soon cleared another twenty acres which they broke with four horses and a sulky plow. There were a few times that they would disturb a hornets nest and

get stung but Dad had a good remedy. He would quickly chew up some tobacco and slap it on the sting — and keep right on with the breaking! Only the last twenty-four acres were broken by a tractor. Charlie Cummings broke them in 1930 with his Twin City tractor. There were some really good crops grown on this farm.

For some years, Mom went out as a mid-wife with Dr. Henderson, Dr. Miller and Dr. Kickham.

We were only a quarter mile from school. Len was caretaker for several years, for which he received about ten cents a day! There was a big stove in one corner of the classroom and most of the heat went upward. Many of the pupils who had a long way to walk, would arrive at school, in the wintertime, feeling very cold and I can remember Len boosting them up on the cloakroom partition, where they could warm up more quickly. Some years later a high school was built in the same yard. Len had quit school by then, so I looked after the two schools. I had to go to Mr. Garde to collect my pay which, I believe, was Twenty-five Dollars for the school term.

The railroad was just a mile to the west of us, and we used to enjoy standing at our upstairs window, watching the passenger train going north in the evening. Such a long string of lights! What a thrill to hear the mournfull whistle blow!

Syd and Len each took up land of their own in the Cross Lake area, while Reg stayed on with the folks.

I met Clarence Twidt, and we were married in the Anglican Church in Westlock on December 10th, 1934. We lived on Dad's Soldiers Grant land, a mile east and a mile north of the folks. We later took up a homestead in the Cross Lake area and moved up there in 1936. We have four girls; Clara, who is married to Gordon Beamish, in Jarvie; Cora, Mrs. Herbert Grose, who lives in Edmonton; Evelyn, who is the wife of Bill McCann and lives at Fawcett; and Lenora, who lives in Wetaskiwin with her husband, Dale Hay. We sold our homestead in 1977 and are now living in Westlock.

Both Len and Syd served in World War II. Len enlisted in 1943 and Syd a year later. When the war was over, they returned to their farms at Cross Lake, where Reg also took up a farm. Years later, Syd went to work for a while in bush camps as a cook, then he sold his farm and is now living in Westlock. Len still lives on his Cross Lake farm. Reg passed away in 1979.

Dad and Mom sold their farm in the spring of 1945 and moved to Penticton, B.C. Dad passed away in 1968, Mom in 1974.

The house that Dad built on the farm was moved into Westlock, to a site north of the railroad tracks in the Whissell Sub-division, and is still being lived in.

## **Vera (Hadley) Weir by herself**

My father, Fred Hadley, came west in 1906. He was a steamfitter, building the roundhouses for the railway. He started at Winnipeg. By 1909 he had reached Wainwright.

My mother, Laura Howie, joined him. They were married in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, as he could not get time off to make the trip to Ontario. They moved to Edmonton in 1910.

After I was born that year, Dad decided to settle in Edmonton so he turned to carpentry.

In 1915 we moved to a farm at Cherhill, where we stayed for five years. There were no schools there so I had only five months schooling when we moved to a farm on the west side of Edmonton in 1920.



Vera (Hadley) Weir — 1929.

By then I had four brothers. The older two and I attended the Irvington School, a walk of nearly three miles. There were only about twenty pupils attending. We always managed to have a lot of fun. We had so many games, the noon hour was never long enough, so we persuaded our teachers to combine the recesses and noon hour together. There was a very deep ravine about a quarter of a mile away. The teacher would ring the bell five minutes early at noon so we could spend a lot of time sliding down the hill on sleighs, cardboard boxes or our coat tails. If exercise sharpens up the mind we should have all been geniuses. We had a small cook stove in the cloak room. I wasn't the oldest girl in school but seemed to be the only one who could cook, so I had to make soup, baked beans, and puddings with the ingredients the children brought each day, during the cold weather. However, that got me excused from dishwashing.

In April, 1926, we moved to the Linaria district. We lived in the Stephen's farm for the first year. My

brother and I thought we were moving to the North Pole. We were driving a herd of grass-hungry cows from the train at Pibroch. Dad had given us a paper with a few scratches on it, as a map; we were not even sure we were on the right road. However, Dad came back to meet us when he had Mother and the two younger boys settled in the house. We moved to our own place the next spring.

I was married in January, 1932, to William Weir. My father passed away suddenly in March, 1932, and we were hardly over that shock when our youngest brother passed away in December, 1932. Our daughter, Vera Eva was born in 1934. She took her education up to Grade IX in Linaria and her high school in Barrhead as the school busses were now taking the children to schools.

I was secretary of the school for a term and of the "Cheery Hour" (our Ladies' Club) and of the W.A. of the United Church for years.

In 1954 our daughter married Leo Horsley. Then came the grandchildren: Sandra, in 1955; Doris, in 1956; and Del in 1961. We enjoyed having them at the farm for weekends and holidays. When they moved to Kelowna, B.C. in 1967, we had sold our cattle to be free to do some travelling. We still had our grandchildren at the farm for six weeks every summer for a holiday.

In 1972, my husband passed away, so I sold the farm and moved to Westlock where I got involved in volunteer work. Now I am so busy I meet myself coming home when I am going out! The Westlock Community Thrift Shop takes up about half of my time. The rest I spread between the church, the Golden Age Club and the Women's Institute. I do a lot of crafts. With the competitions in the W.I. and the Annual Westlock Fair, the work is more of a challenge.

My family of one has grown to thirteen. I have five great-grandchildren ranging in age from eight months to eight years. My grandchildren have all married, so that adds three more.

When one looks back, there have been many changes. I once rode behind a team of oxen, now I fly in a 747 jet plane.

## **Roy and Margaret Hanlan by Mrs. Hanlan**

The Hanlans moved to the SW¼-9-59-26-W4 on July 1st, 1956. They had cropped the farm on weekends in 1955 while the VLA red-tape was unrolled and Margaret had helped Vera Roberts with the landscaped yard which had been planned and executed by Marie and Bob Martin many years before.

They were accompanied by their son and daughter, Bruce and Phyllis, who entered the Westlock



School System in the Fall of 1956. In Grade IX Phyllis was one of four students in the whole Division to secure Honors. After graduation, and several years of marriage to Don Chapotelle, Phyllis returned to High School to take Business subjects and earned the Staples Award for highest marks in non-academic subjects. She and Don have two children (Barry and Wendy) and live in a mobile home beside her parents, and help with the farm operations as Roy and Margaret slow down in deference to their age! Don worked for many years in the School Bus Garage and Phyllis in the Westlock M.D. Tax Office.

Bruce married Sandra Moncrieff of Clyde, and they have two children, Tina and Douglas. Bruce has his own truck and they live on their acreage near Protestant Hill.



Roy and Margaret Hanlan, 1959, with friends Bea and Bud Graham in front of their vine-clad home and rockery, showing split stone walk. Home and landscaping by Marie and Bob Martin (probably done in the 1920's).

The older children, Roy Edwin, Miles and Alta, continued living in the old family house at 7939-83rd Avenue in South Edmonton, while working in the city. Roy Senior worked for an Edmonton firm in and around the city as a carpenter for many years and farmed week-ends. Eventually the children all married and scattered, and the city home was sold.

For twenty years Margaret was Western Canada Representative for Instructor Publications and allied companies. In this capacity, she and Roy went to Teachers' Conventions and University Education Departments in the three Western Provinces, and their displays became a familiar and welcome sight. She represented the Western Canada Subscription Agencies of Edmonton for over forty years. She also took many prizes at the Westlock Fair and the various Garden Club Shows, from 1956 for nearly twenty years. She was an active member of the Pickardville W.I. from 1956 and a Life Member of the Associated Country Women of the World. Roy and Margaret

were Life Members of the Farm Union of Alberta (later called "Unifarm"), and Margaret was one of those who helped to organize the Community Church of Christ in Westlock. She also took an active interest in many groups working for the betterment of the community.

## Helmar Hanna

Helmar Hanna came from the United States and bought the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -4-61-27-4. He was a cousin of Carl Antonson, and had married Esme Norbury, a daughter of Major Norbury, from England. Her folks came to live near them. They had two daughters. The Norburys lived in Edmonton until their demise. Helmar went back to the United States. Mrs. Hanna worked in the Edmonton Library. The girls were educated in Edmonton. Norma, the oldest, married and lives in Toronto. The younger, Stella, married Dr. Little, a dentist, in Edmonton. The Hanna place had several renters, Clint Anderson for one. They had three children, Audrey, Norman and Lawrence. Norman is married and lives in Edmonton. Audrey married Gordon Hammer and lives in Westlock, where she is employed at the Auxiliary Hospital.

## Riverdale Memories

by Elsie Hasse

We came to the Riverdale school district around 1945. There were four of us at the time, two children Harold and Elaine, my husband Frank and myself (Elsie). Prior to coming here we lived in the Mellowdale district in the Barrhead area, about 4 miles north east of town. Had a quarter section of land, not the best land but had a chance of selling, so did. We lived in the Barrhead area for 4 years and



Elsie Hasse, Harold and Elaine, 1947.



once again had to look for a new location. Thus, we came and settled here near the Pembina river where the land is considered productive. (N.W.¼-11-60-1-W5th) Had dreams of increasing acreage in time to come. We purchased from Harry Curlette, I believe he was owner but he was in Real Estate. Along with this parcel of land we got a twenty acre fraction about one mile north of the home quarter, just along the river. When we first came, rented a quarter across the road with the hopes of buying. In a few years, the land all around seemed to sell in large parcels so no more leasing. However, in a few years we got another fraction adjacent to the one we already had. We bought it from Gerald Brabazon as he owned land across the river. The river ran through his land leaving a portion on this side so it wasn't too convenient to farm it. These fractions were sold later to Art Lyons as they joined his property. He had wanted them for years so eventually he did get them. Elaine was born while we lived at Mellowdale and Harold was born at Stony Plain. Originally we had lived in Carvel area. Janet and Heather were born here (but in Edmonton hospital). Harold attended Riverdale school till he got into High School and that time had had to be picked up at the highway which was 2 miles away. During winter it was with difficulty — when snow drifts got too deep for walking, he would have to ride a horse to the neighbors near the highway and leave the horse there. Roads weren't maintained like today as often and usually the horse had snow to its belly. Elaine attended Riverdale till grade four when all country schools closed and children were taken by bus to Westlock. Both Janet and Heather went from Primary to high school to Westlock. As the years went by, pick up became more convenient and the roads were gravelled and kept open. The location of this land, N.W. ¼ — section 11, township 60, range 1, west of the 5th Meridian. During Harold's school years, he enjoyed sports, playing baseball and hockey with the local teams. He now resides in Edmonton and works for the City of Edmonton Fire Department. He married Patricia Clark and they have four daughters. Elaine lives in Westlock. She married a local boy, Fred Colbourne. They have two children, a girl and a boy. Elaine has worked for a number of years with the Associate Medical Clinic and Fred is a trucker. Janet married Charlie Hennig of Edmonton. They recently purchased a home in Stony Plain. Janet works for the Bank of Montreal at the Centennial Mall Branch, Charlie is a salesman. Heather, the youngest, married Bernie Heimstra of Edmonton. At the time of this writing, they live in a mobile home on this property. They moved here following my husband's death three and a half years ago. Heather and Bernie have one little boy, Heather



Janet and Heather Hasse.

works for a law firm in Westlock and Bernie is a sheet metal mechanic.

This land was homesteaded in 1903 by William Clark. There was a family of four sons and one daughter. They lived here for a number of years and I understand three of the sons each homesteaded a quarter section cornering the father's so had a little Clark settlement. After Clarks moved, Mrs. McCall and family came here. I don't know the years or if they bought or rented. Apparently she remarried and moved away.

McQuarries came when McCalls left. This was around 1926. Two of the daughters in the family were teachers, one married a Robins who lived a mile and a half east. McQuarries moved to Peace River. The original house burned down sometime during the McCall transaction.

Evoys rented the land after McQuarries, and farmed here until the time when we bought. They had a sale and moved to B.C.

When we arrived, I wasn't too impressed with the lay out. I knew it would be a struggle and hard work as all the buildings were run down. They were either leaning or falling down. The house was the only thing repairable and it needed a lot of work, but I still reside in the house. It all had to be done in stages, bit by bit over the years. The plaster was rough and off in big chunks downstairs, and upstairs just by two by



fours with no partitions. We knocked off all the old plaster and put gyproc up. A very dirty and time consuming job when you are trying to live in the house at the same time. The whole house had to be insulated and had new foundation and siding. It's been re-shingled twice but it's our home yet. All other buildings are gone. When we replaced the log barn that was collapsing, we got the old Woodglen school. We got it from Donavons who had the Rossington store at the time. I think Henry Mehden had bought the school while they had the store. Mr. Mehden was a son-in-law to Mrs. Donavon. In those days, everybody had a big wood pile. It was one of the first things that had to be done when we moved. The men would all help one another for a sawing bee until all had their wood sawed. Then came the splitting, each their own, so the wood would dry and this was used for the year's supply fuel for heat. The threshing would be similar, men would be away for days, if the weather was fit.

To make a living, we had a few chickens, pigs and cows. We took our produce to Westlock — in the winter, we would go by sleigh and horses. If the weather was not too cold and the roads passable, we would drive the Model A Ford. In those days, you just bought the essentials as produce didn't bring much money. Bakers bread was a rare treat.

### The Joe Heemeryck Family

Joe Heemeryck was born September 25, 1913, son of Philip and Sidonia Heemeryck of Thorhild and lived most of his life in the Busby district. His mother, Sidonia, came to Canada in 1901 from Belgium with her parents and lived on a farm in Lamoureux, Alberta. Philip, his father, left Belgium in 1906 and worked on the coal docks in the U.S. before coming to Canada. In 1908, Philip and Sidonia were married. They homesteaded in the Thorhild area and then farmed in the Legal and Busby districts.

In 1936, Joe married Alice Clement from Busby. Alice was a RN working in Barrhead and Westlock hospitals. They lived in Edmonton, where Joe worked at Swift's Packing Plant until January of 1937, at which time they returned to his dad's farm in Busby to live and help with the farming.

In the spring of 1938, Joe and Alice moved to a section of land two miles east and two miles south of Busby (the Hepburn place). Joe continued to farm with his dad, along with his own, while Alice looked after the home chores, two small children, pigs, chickens and the milking of seven cows. Times were tough and money was scarce. Furniture and machinery were all on loan, while groceries were bought on time in hopes of a good crop. Everyone worked very hard trying to get a start. One fall the weather was so



Four generations of Heemerycks. Daniel, age 6 years; Philip, age 28 years; Joseph, age 53 years and Philip, age 80 years. Taken October, 1966.

good that Joe was gone for twenty-one days straight on his dad's threshing crew.

In 1939 they bought their first vehicle — an International half-ton truck. Prior to this the only transportation was a team and wagon, buggy or sleigh, which meant that not much travelling was done.

In the spring of 1945 they bought the Sanders place, one mile east and one mile south of Busby, where they farmed for the next fifteen years.

Over the years, Alice's nursing career came in very handy, not only in dealing with the wounds and illnesses of her own family, but also in helping out



Joe Heemeryck family. L to R: Norman, Philip, Joyce, Dennis, Robert.

many neighbors. Her services were called upon many times by local residents to assist in times of sickness and accidents.

In the early years, Joe spent much time breaking land for neighboring farmers such as Whitfords, Joe Elliott, the McCloy brothers, Frank De Smet, Hennesseys, Coutts, etc. With the limited farm machinery and the unpredictable weather, farmers were very dependent on one another especially in the fall. Joe bought his own threshing machine. In the fall he would hire a crew of men who would help him with his harvesting and then move on to other farms.

In the off-season, Joe drove truck for Frank De Smet and did trucking for Bill Howson. He also trucked on his own. He hauled freight, grain, livestock, etc. to and from Edmonton, and coal in the winter months.

Joe and Alice were faithful supporters of St. Anthony's Church in Busby. They were active community people, helping with and participating in the many varied community activities. Joe hauled many loads of water for the Busby Curling Rink, they helped with the annual Chicken Suppers and picnics, and took part in curling, square dancing, etc.

In the mid 1950's they had Calgary Power's electricity put in their house but they never did get running water.

In July, 1960 they moved to Edmonton where Joe worked for Scona Spring and Steering — McCoy Brothers (in 1933, Bert McCoy had worked for Joe's dad helping with the harvesting), and then he worked for the Gas Company.

Joe and Alice have five children and nine grandchildren.



Joe and Alice Heemeryck, 1962.

Joyce, born in 1936, married Ron Dunn from Australia. They are now living in Edmonton where Joyce is nursing at the Edmonton General Hospital. They have one daughter, Monica, born 1962.

Philip, born 1938, is married to Shirley Oldenburg of Busby, now living in Edmonton and working as an ETS Operator for the City of Edmonton. They have two children, Daniel, born 1960 and Debora, born 1961.

Dennis, born 1943, married to Marjorie Rourke of Calgary, now living in St. Albert and working for the Edmonton School Board as an electrician. They have two children, Joe born 1976 and Sharon, born 1978.

Norman, born 1945, married to Betty White of Edmonton, now living in St. Albert and working as Maintenance Supervisor for Home Hardware. They have two children, Leanne, born 1967 and Curtis, born 1970.

Robert, born 1950, married to Janet White of Edmonton, now living in Edmonton and working at Labatts Brewers. They have two children, David, born 1979 and Karen, born 1981.

### **Eunice (Nelson) Herring-Cooper**

Eunice worked in Jeselon's General Store in Clyde after school and on Saturdays the last year of high school and for about a year after she finished.

She went to Edmonton about 1950 to take a business course at McTavish Business School. She went to work at North West Industries where she met



Eunice and Dave Cooper.



her future husband William (Barney) Herring-Cooper. They were married in September 1953.

Three of their four children, Karen, Ken and Dave were born before they moved to Yellowknife, then to Hay River. During the big flood in Hay River in 1961, Eunice and the children were forced to evacuate. She came home to Clyde and Cathy was born in Westlock.

The family stayed in Edmonton while Barney got his air mechanics and pilot's license. Since that time they have lived in the North West Territories — Fort Simpson for a short while and the last fifteen years in Fort Smith. Barney flies as a charter pilot and Eunice works for the government.

editors footnote: Eunice passed away during the summer of 1983.

### **Charles Henry Hersey**

Charles Henry Hersey came to Canada from England as a young man in his twenties. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hersey Sr., and his sister Edith, came with him. They lived for a time at Magog, Quebec. Edith met and married Frank Sabal. They had one daughter, Mona.

The whole family moved west in approximately 1908 and took up homesteads in the Busby area. Charles homesteaded the NE ¼ 4-58-27-W4. and his parents homesteaded the NE ¼ 3-58-27-W4.

Charles was a bachelor at this time so he and his parents built a log house on his farm and they lived together there.

Edith and Frank Sabal moved on to the Peace River District and took a homestead there.

Mrs. Hersey died at the homestead and is buried in the Busby Cemetery just north of town.

Things must have looked better in the east, because Charles and his Father sold their homesteads and moved to a farm in New Brunswick. Charles left his father on the farm, and went to work for a Doctor and Mrs. Craven, near Boston, Mass, U.S.A. where he met Elsie Stacey who also worked for the Cravens as cook. They were married at Elsie's home at Gabarouse, Cape Breton, N.S. on Januray 6, 1921 and moved to the farm in New Brunswick.

Their eldest son, James, was born Jan. 12, 1922. Their second son, Harry, was born April 2, 1923, and their daughter, Edith, was born on June 9, 1925. Mr. Hersey, Snr. died in New Brunswick and is buried there.

Charles liked the west, so he decided to return. In 1928 they sold the farm in New Brunswick and moved west with their family, accompanied by Mrs. Hersey's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Moore Stacey. They lived in the Highridge area for a year and then moved to the Eastburg District in 1929. Their oldest son,

James, died there in 1937 and is buried in the Manola Cemetery.

In November of 1940, the family moved to Trail's End, Pickardville area, just 1½ miles north of Charles' old homestead. Charles died there in May, 1943, and is buried in the Busby Cemetery beside his Mother.

Harry bought a farm just 2 miles north of Busby and moved his Mother and sister there in March 1944.

Edith married Bob Horricks of Hazel Bluff in March, 1947. They are farming, and they have two children.

Mrs. Hershey died in 1957, and is buried beside her husband, Charles, in the Busby Cemetery.

Harry sold his farm to Harry Bruce, and now lives near Edmonton, where he is employed as a sheet metal mechanic. He is married and has two children.

### **Joseph Aloysius Hess (Big Joe)**

Joe was eleven years old when he came from Wichita, Kansas, with his parents John and Maria, brother Edward and sisters Kate and Clara. The family left Kansas because of a drought and so many tornadoes. John was tired of losing his barns and houses to tornadoes, cyclones, etc.

They arrived in Edmonton in August, 1902, after a long and tedious train ride, bringing with them their household goods and four horses.

The family stopped at Lamoureaux, near Fort Saskatchewan, where they stayed in an old store while the men folk searched for farm land, on the many trails out of Edmonton.

The men found the farmland which they thought would suit them, along the Landing Trail. John and Edward filed a homestead claim on the north half of 22-59-24-W4th in October of 1902. John took the northeast quarter for the family home.

In January of 1903, the men hauled logs to build the house and barns. In the spring Maria and the girls moved in and the work really began.

The horses they had brought from Kansas died with swamp fever, like so many of the settlers horses did.

The men managed to clear and break three acres, which they seeded to oats, using oxen to do the work. They spent the winter flailing the oats. When Joe was 15, he broke 22 acres that summer, with oxen pulling the plow. The crops were threshed with flails until the treadmill thresher came. Horses were used to run this. The treadmill was used until the steam engine came. Alex Parrent, another early settler, bought a steam engine, and Joe operated this for him until

1919. They did the threshing for the settlers for miles around the community.

Joe hauled freight from Edmonton to Athabasca, over the Landing Trail, in 1915-1916.

Joe's spare time was spent bringing in horses; this was a necessity. On Sundays, he, with Johnny and Pat Donnelly and others held miniature rodeos, (bronc riding, they called it). This was a summer event. In the winter they had house parties and dances. There were no halls in those days, so the dances were held by whoever had the biggest house. There was always someone who could play the fiddle and these dances often lasted till daybreak.

In 1919 Joe married Violet Robinson, whom he had seen in the cradle in 1902! They bought a quarter section two miles from Clyde in 1920, from Dave Skidmore (Violet's Uncle) for \$4,500.00.

There are five children, two of them still living in the area. Walter Hess lives on a farm a few miles from the original farm homestead. Viola, who is married to Harry Lane, lives on a farm a short distance northeast of Westlock. Marjorie and her husband, Timothy Lynch, live in Devon. Clara married Dr. Theron Garrison who has a practice in Edmonton, where they reside. Patricia also lives in Edmonton, with her husband Edmond Dempster.

Joe passed away in January, 1971, Violet still lives in Westlock.

## **Sid and Dell Hewson**

Sid and Dell both came from the Red Deer area. Sid, who was born in 1917, took his schooling in that area, and after completion of Grade XII, worked with his father and uncle in the Hewson and Sons Coal and Cartage business in Red Deer. Their beautiful Clydesdale horses were well known all over Alberta.

In 1936, Sid moved to the Hewson farm west of Red Deer. With the help of his uncle, Sid built his first house. His uncle, a skilled carpenter, taught him many of the fine points of this trade. These came in handy as over the years he has built barns, other types of buildings, hardwood pitmans for horse-drawn mowers, kitchen cabinets, etc.

In 1942 Sid started buying grain for the Searle Grain Co. at Mintlaw. Next, he was transferred to Eckville, in 1946. Sid was active in the "Save the Soil Seed Plots" as well as other community projects. Dell was active in the Women's Institute wherever they lived for many years. While buying grain in Eckville, Sid worked at the Eckville Hospital during the evenings, doing carpenter work. He enjoys fishing and horse-shoes, so always tried to find time for a little of that wherever we lived. He also managed the Atlas Lumber yard from 1951-52, but decided to go

back to grain buying for the Searle Grain Co. till 1964.

We have three children; Gail, Gloria and Bill. All attended Busby School, then went by bus to finish their High School in Westlock.

Gail (Mrs. D. Dennis) is a resource teacher and vice-principal in High Prairie. Gloria, (Mrs. Ray Wilkinson) graduated from the University of Alberta, in nursing. Bill married Bonnie Robertson and lives in High Prairie, where he has his own Rangeland Accounting firm. We have seven grand-children.

While in Busby, the family were all involved in community activities. The girls were busy with C.G.I.T. and Young People's, and Bill in Cubs, Scouts, baseball and hockey. During the winter, everyone curled, Sid winning many prizes.

Sid was President of the Community League for some years, helped in the building of the new Busby Church, and was leader of the 4-H Grain Club.

Sid felt that grain elevators in small towns were gradually being phased out so he decided to prepare himself for another occupation. He took courses which prepared him for the position of Town Administrator, so in 1964 he took over that position and we moved to Westlock. He has seen the Town grow from a population of 2400 to 4400 in 1982. There have been many changes during that time, including such projects as the Industrial Park, Nursing Home, Auxiliary Hospital, and Pembina Lodge, as well as Park View Place and Park View Plaza Senior Citizen's Apartments.

In the meantime Sid attended many administration courses to keep abreast of changes and thus do his utmost for the Town.

Dell enjoys volunteer work. She has been a helper at the Thrift Shop for the past seventeen years and a member of the Westlock Hospital Volunteers for sixteen years. These last few years she has served as President of this group.

Sid plans to retire this year (1982) and hopes to do more travelling, fishing, hunting and maybe write some poetry!

## **The Heywoods**

**Rose Feist**

### **The Story of My Parents Who Pioneered in the Clyde District at the Turn of the Century**

To me this is like a little fairy tale, but it really wasn't. It is a story told to me by my mother of the early days of her life, after she was married, of which I knew nothing or remembered very much about until perhaps 1916 or 1917.

Thomas and Elizabeth Heywood were both born



in Ontario. Dad's birthdate was May 18, 1869 and Mother's birthdate was July 8, 1879. They were married October 25, 1899 in London, Middlesex County, Ontario. Their first baby girl was born September 30, 1900. They named her Gladys Irene. They decided to move to Minnesota in the U.S.A. where dad's brother lived. His name was Jim. They left London, Ontario by train when Gladys was nearly a year old. They had to cross Lake Superior.



Gertie Heywood Quail in front of Pueschel's log home.

A storm came up on the lake after getting on board the boat. Many boats went down. The old passenger boat they were on squeaked and creaked as if it would fall apart. They were stormed in first one harbour, then another. Many big vessels went down loaded with grain. Dad and Mother were both seasick. Dad kept up but Mother went to bed. A big wave hit the boat, and all the dishes left on the tables flew off across the dining room onto the floor. Dad had a bottle of whiskey for any emergency that might arise, and it was thrown across the floor and got broken. The smell of whisky remained in the state-room for the rest of the journey, adding to the illness they already had.

There was great unrest among the passengers. One older lady was on her way to see her son and she was so worried she just wrung her hands one around the other for the whole trip across the lake. She would say, "Poor Pat, my poor Pat." She was so afraid the boat was going to go down.

They landed in Duluth, Minnesota, then went on a train to Grand Rapids. Dad's brother was there in

town to meet them. Before they came he read of the storm on the lake and gave them up for lost. He thought their boat had gone down with the rest. So Jim went home again, very disappointed. They got word to Jim after he got home again, and he came back to Grand Rapids and took them out to Jim's mother's place.



The Heywood Twins, Rose and Violet of Charleston fame, with Poplar Knoll School in the background.

They bought a homestead there of one hundred and sixty acres. In eight years they cleared eight acres by hand, the axe, any way they could. They stayed eight years with this hard work fighting mosquitoes and the fear of diphtheria and smallpox, from which many people lost their lives.

Three more babies were born in Minnesota — Julia, Gertrude and Lillian in the eight years they were there.

They sold the place for \$400 and came west to Alberta with just that amount of money. Of course, \$400 then was a lot of money in 1908, and we could compare \$400 to \$4000 now. Things were much cheaper then. In 1908 they left Minnesota and came to Edmonton on the train to another farm of 160 acres of bush and lots of hard work.

They left Grand Rapids, went to Minneapolis and took another train to Winnipeg, Manitoba and another train from there to Edmonton, then to Morinville. There was no train from there on so they hired a livery vehicle which was a big double-seated buggy

and they drove with the horses and this big buggy to the place they would call home again.

The roads were bad — no paved roads then or not even gravel — just wagon trails. One place, where my son Tommy had his boat (in about 1954) on a small lake on Chuck Ramsum's brother's farm, the horses got down in the mud on crossing this lake. They could not get out so Dad unhitched the horses so they could move out without the loaded buggy to pull. Mother and dad carried the four children out of the wagon to dry land and also carried Gordon, my mother's brother whom she raised from a small baby. He was then about 10 years old. Then they came back and pulled the wagon out by hand. After that every bit of mud and water the horses saw they laid down and wouldn't pull an ounce.



Some of the first settlers in the Clyde area taken at the home of George and Gladys Pueschel. Seated is Gladys Pueschel with her daughter. Next to her is Mrs. Frank Langtree. Back of her is Winnifred Le Beau. To her right is Nellie Cole and to her left is Mrs. Elizabeth Heywood, and to her left is Mrs. Mose Dusseault.

When they finally got out of the swamp they were about one and one-half miles from where their homestead was located. They stayed with my mother's sister and her husband who lived just across the road. They had a house and a family. Their names were Ernest and Christine Cole.

Dad turned around and went right back to Morinville with the horses and wagon. Then he walked back to the homestead again with a packsack on his back containing food. This he did many times in the first few years they lived there until the railroad came in to Clyde. Before that you had to walk to get to Morinville forty miles away. The closest doctor was at Morinville, a long way to be away from a doctor in case any illness or emergency should arise.

They lived in a tent the first summer until Dad could get a house built. (The same house still stood there until about 1980 when it was burned to the ground.) They later built a kitchen onto the main part

of the four-bedroom home, and a few years later Dad plastered the walls and ceilings inside the house, upstairs and down. Dad built a log barn and in about ten years he built a big frame barn and painted it red. It was the nicest house and barn around the country for many miles. The house was always painted white trimmed in green.

Mother was busy those days. She had six children, Gordon and her father, our Grandad McLean, herself and Dad to cook for. She washed clothes on the washboard for years like all the rest of these pioneer folks. She also helped dad in the fields and they brushed about 160 acres on the home quarter section and also brushed the quarter section that Grandad McLean bought near LeBeau's Lake. This brushing was all done by the axe, shovels and saw. Then dad ploughed it up with a walking plough drawn by one horse. Later on he got a plough you could ride on and it made two furrows instead of just one across the field. So this was the first advancement in new machinery. The next year after arriving they planted a few acres of grain.

Dad was a stone mason and brick layer by trade. He and his brother John made a living at this trade in London, Ontario when living there. So the two boys built a lot of brick buildings in that city, and if anyone wanted a fancy front on any of their brick buildings, they would always call on the two Heywood brothers, Tom and John, to do it as they were experts at the trade.

In Alberta dad worked at mason work anywhere he could get work in the towns around or the country homes building chimneys and plastering the interior of the homes. He finished the school house in which we went to school called Poplar Knoll school and built the chimney. There were only a few farmers near our home place, about three different families. In a few years a few more came so they had closer neighbors.

One day they were about one-half mile from home and this was when they were brushing out a road (which is the same road passing our home place today). They cut the brush down and left stubs of brush all over the place which was to be the road wide enough for a wagon to go through. Mother had her niece with her and she was in her bare feet. The stubs hurt her feet so mother had to pick her up and carry her all the way home.

They planted a little garden the first year. Results were not too good. They got chickens a few years later and had horses and later got started in pigs. It was a slow progression those years with everything so inconvenient and money so scarce.

Dad must have also built the chimney on the Dugannon church near Clyde which still stands



today (1983) because they helped build the church too, Mother said. He made some tombstones for several graves in the Dungannon church graveyard. He made them of cement mixed with some other substance that made the finished product a nice stone rather white in color. Before this was dry and was still in the mold he taught Lillian and the twins to print the names of the person it was to be for, their birth dates and death dates, etc.

We burned wood then to heat the houses. Lots of trees were cut for this purpose, later sawed in stove wood lengths and piled near the home. A lot of it was cut and sawed by the cross-cut saw. The logs were laid across two saw horses made by hand and cut up in pieces to burn.

A few years later Tom Heywood, Frank Lanktree and Ernest Cole got a steam engine. A syndicate, all three owned shares in it. Now they could saw wood by this machine instead of by hand. They also crushed grain three times a week for 10 cents per bag. Mr. Lanktree ran the engine as he was a steam engineer.

When threshing time came around each fall the steam engine was moved by horses to each farmer's home. Mr. Lanktree was the engineer, Ernest Cole was the bagger at the machine. Tom Heywood fed the machine the bundles of grain and there were two band cutters. There were three men on each stack and three men on the straw pile. There was no blower on these machines then, so the straw had to be all pitched back away from the machine to form the big straw piles on which these three men worked. There were two wagons to haul the grain and two men in the granary. This is how it was done in 1914. The ladies helped each other cook in the neighborhood where they threshed.

When it came to the threshing machine moving to the Heywood home the men followed the machine as usual and a few of their wives helped mother cooking when we girls were small. By the time the twins, Violet and Rose, were fifteen or sixteen they had modern threshing machines with blowers, etc., but by then we were all old enough to help mother with the meals and take lunch to the fields at four o'clock in the afternoon and back home again to prepare the big evening meal at supper time.

After supper the horses were all fed and put in barns for the night so the men would be there for work first thing after breakfast in the morning. After supper the threshers would go out to the strawberry patch to pick and eat big, red, luscious berries. At dusk they would come into the house for a while and dad would say, "You twins get your guitar and sing for us". We were very happy to sing for them and we sang many songs plus a few requests by dad. They all

showed great delight in our singing. When it came time to leave the Heywood home they all came to mother and told her how they hated to move on and leave our home with all the lovely home cooked meals and all that singing and entertainment every night by the girls.

For removing stumps from the farmer's land they had a stump puller. All the farmers helped each other. To help were the LeBeau families — Zepher LeBeau, Boy LeBeau, Sam LeBeau and the father of these boys called "Old Man LeBeau" and everyone knew him by that name. Art Maynard also helped and the Cole boys and Hugo Smith. Fred Cole chopped the stumps up into wood. Hugo Smith marked the price on each stump, the cost to remove it. Two horses pulled the chain around and around in circles winding it around a drum. Finally, the chain attached at the other end to the stump shortened and the horses pulled it out. Tom Heywood had the trees sawed for lumber. Tom Carruthers who had a farm about one-half mile from ours, working with the stump pulling crew became snow blind and couldn't see for seven days. This was in the spring of 1914 or 1915.

For entertainment among the different families living around us, many of them five or six miles away, we had dances held in each one of their homes including ours. These were usually in the form of a surprise party once a week. The ladies made cakes and sandwiches to bring for the midnight lunch. Some danced and others played cards. There were violin players among us and they played for the dancers. There was Vernie Decker, George Pueschel, Art Maynard on violins and Myrtle Decker on piano any place that had a piano, and we all had a wonderful time.

Dad used to help butcher and cut up meat for other farmers. He and Mom often gave home, bed and stable room to families going through in the early days.

Dad also cleared a large area in our Jack Pine Ridge. He put basket ball hoops up on two tall Jack pine trees the right distance apart so they could play basketball. He built tables for lunch to be served on and places to sit. The place was all cleared for games like cricket and races for children. We had our annual picnic here once a year, and farmers and their wives and children came for miles for the day. They had lunch prepared and home-made ice cream, a real treat for all of us. Dad also invited other families to come in and have their picnics there any time, which they did from time to time all summer and everyone was happy and enjoyed themselves.

In the winter time we would often go to a dance or some entertainment in a school house, very often a Christmas concert. Often mother and dad boarded

the school teachers for Poplar Knoll. Mother made all the Christmas costumes for the school children in the plays the teachers taught them for the concerts. To us they were just beautiful, sometimes made of colorful crepe paper trimmed in glistening tinsel. We girls all looked like Christmas tree angels.

One evening on the way to the Christmas concert at our school, the stars were so bright, no city lights to dim their brilliancy, the Milky Way showed every star in the galaxy. The Northern lights were so bright they practically seemed to be streaming to the ground. This night they made a great deal of noise, hissing loudly as they moved as waterfalls from the sky. "How beautiful!" we all said, but our horses thought differently pulling our sleigh with all of us going to the concert. They reared up and started to get out of control. Dad had to get out of the sleigh and try to calm them down before we had a runaway across the fields. They did not like those bright, noisy, hissing Northern lights.

We had a happy childhood and went to Poplar Knoll school until we finished Grade IX. Gladys was the first one to get married. She married George Pueschel on November 15, 1921. Julia and Gertrude went to train for nurses. Julia graduated in 1921. Gertrude married Douglas Quail in 1926. Lillian married Wilfred Crone April 14, 1934 after teaching school a few years. Rosey married Virgil Feist November 28, 1935 and later I studied and worked at physiotherapy. Violet married Marvin Fosdick in 1933. Violet went to live in Oregon and I went to live in Washington, U.S.A.

So now the folks were alone on the farm. Dad had to have hired men to help run the two quarter sections he now owned. Mother's father, our Grandad McLean left his quarter section to Mother and dad at his death August 15, 1914.

Dad's health started to fail and in a few years they had a sale and sold both quarter sections of land, all their livestock and machinery. They sold everything but just what they needed to settle in their new home they purchased in Westlock. They lived happily there until Dad died March 5, 1946. Mother lived there a few more years and later sold her home there and moved into Edmonton where she resided with Gladys and George after they had sold their farm. She would live a while with them and then come and stay a while with me (Rose) and Buddy after we purchased our home in Edmonton. She was never placed in a nursing home to live but she died after a six months stay in the University Hospital on November 13, 1972.

Rose Feist and Lillian (Crone) Richards, the only living members of the Heywood family, are still deeply involved in the entertainment world. They

both sing in Senior Citizens' groups in Edmonton, and have presented programs at many Seniors' concerts in the City. They have appeared on T.V. They take part in square dance, ballroom dance, and individual numbers in which Rose instructs. Have you seen her do the Charleston lately?

**Clifford Hide**

Clifford Hide was the second son of Henry and Harriet Hide. He was born on July 26, 1905, at Rudyard, Michigan, U.S.A. He came to Canada with his parents when he was a young boy.

He grew up with his two brothers, Ray and Leslie, on the family farm, which is located NW¼ 13-60-27-W4. He attended the local schools and went on to be a teacher. He taught school at Riverdale in 1925, and later at Smith, Alberta.



L to R: Leslie, Ray and Clifford Hide.



Clifford, Ray and Leslie Hide.



He attended the University of Alberta and majored in Agronomy. Following graduation, he joined the staff of the University of Manhattan in Kansas, U.S.A. He married Agnes Florence while in Manhattan. Their son, David, was born there on June 17, 1940. A few years later, he joined the staff of Montana State College, Bozeman, Montana, where he was a Professor of Soils. While there, he published a book on soil management. In July, 1962, he passed away at Bozeman, Montana.

Their son, David, became a Medical Doctor and is now living with his wife Jane, and son Timothy, in Glasgow, Montana, U.S.A.

## Henry and Harriet Hide

by L. and A. Hide

Henry (Harry) Hide was born in 1864 in London, England. He immigrated to south western Ontario about the year 1880. Around the turn of the century, he married Harriet Elizabeth Wightman of Wingham, Ontario. She was born July 16, 1868 in Huron County, Ontario. About two years after their marriage, with their young son, Ray, they moved to



Hide family, 1915. Back row: Harriet and Ray. Front: Leslie, Henry and Clifford.



At Ray Hide home after church service there. Back row, L to R: Mr. and Mrs. Wilson with baby Joyce (Mills), Mr. Acroyd (photographer), Ernie Hunt, Jim Mills holding Sadie, Mr. Thomas, Henry Hide, Rev. and Mrs. Bowl. Middle row: Mrs. McCrae with Milton, Mrs. Ernie Hunt with George on her lap, Mrs. Jim Mills, Mrs. Thomas and baby, Mrs. Hide with Leslie beside her. Front row: Verba McCrae, Clifford Hide, Nellie Mills, Ray Hide with dog, Herb Alton.

Rudyard, Michigan, U.S.A. where they farmed for four years. Their sons, Clifford and Leslie, were born there.

They left the United States to spend a few months in La Riviere, Manitoba, with relatives. Leaving the family there, Henry filed on a homestead in Saskatchewan. Learning of the fertile soil of Alberta, he proceeded to the Swallowhurst area, where he filed on the NW¼ 13-60-27-W4, his home until his death in 1934. Harriet Hide passed away on May 29, 1949 at the age of 81 years.

Henry and Harriet were both active in the work of the church at Hazel Bluff. He was secretary of the Church Board for many years, while Harriet was involved in the Ladies' groups. In 1918 they built their new home where their three sons grew up. They took pride in growing fruit trees, shrubs and beautiful flowers.

### **Leslie Hide by Lucile**

Leslie was born April 16, 1907, near Rudyard, Michigan, USA, the third son of Henry and Hattie Hide. In 1908 they started west and found a new home at what is now called "Westlock."

A small creek named the Wabash ran close by their building site. The fishing was good. You could set a line and in a few minutes you had a nice fish for dinner.

Leslie told of falling in the creek — he climbed on top of the chicken house to dry. In those days the

little boys' Sunday shirts buttoned down the back, and he couldn't get his shirt off by himself.

Water for the livestock was hauled in two barrels on a stoneboat, drawn by a team of horses. The barrels would be filled by dipping up a pail of water from the creek and pouring it into the barrel. One day they drove in farther than necessary. The barrels began to float away. Ray and Cliff did some fast thinking when they remembered their brother Leslie was sitting inside one of the barrels, and could have been drowned. In the next year or so they had a well drilled and got good water at 130 feet.

A main trail passed by the Hide home; many people stopped for dinner or over night. The ones often mentioned were Budgen and Holm, with their wagon load of supplies for their store at Eunice, later renamed Dapp. These pioneer merchants always pried open a wooden tub of candy and gave the boys a treat.

Mr. and Mrs. McMaster took two days to go to Westlock and back, with a heavy team and wagon, he standing in front driving and she sitting in a rocking chair in the back of the wagon. They would stop for dinner at Hide's on both days. It was about twelve miles one way.

Leslie did a lot of hauling grain and lumber — mostly in the winter, walking behind the sleigh to keep warm. Heavy horses were his favourites, he also raised some foals. Leslie showed a team of Clydes at the Westlock Fair — won first prize — but never received the cup that was awarded to him. Guess it was lost.

In 1933 wheat was worth 35 cents a bushel. It was possible to buy a truckload of lumber, about 6000 board feet, for ten or twelve dollars a thousand at the mill. Retail, it was about \$18 to \$20 a thousand. Cattle and hogs were down in price also.

When Leslie was four years old, a neighbor with a team of oxen, asked Leslie if he would like to go to the store with him, at Edison. Hal Oneland asked Leslie what he would like from the store, he answered "A pair of shoes." No shoes his size — he still had to wear those button boots.

On the return trip, while Leslie sat holding the lines, one of the oxen laid down. What to do? Was the ox sick? How would they get home? He didn't know that oxen would lay down to rest whenever they stopped.

Leslie started to a one-room school at Sunny Bank about 1914. When World War I broke out, the teacher enlisted in mid-term. A professor, Dr. Wortman, finished out the term. This professor drilled the class in oral arithmetic which Leslie found most helpful all his life. He also attended the Westlock High School.



The Leslie Hide family. L to R: Lucille, Eileen, Jim and Leslie.



Leslie assisted Lorne Campbell at the grain elevator and enjoyed his work. Due to his father's illness, he came home to farm a mixed farm on the NW¼-13-60-27-W4. It took many long hours of hard work, year after year to get the raw land under cultivation. The clearing was done by hand with an axe. Horsepower was used for breaking the first sod. Root picking was an endless chore, dusty and monotonous.

Leslie was a member of the Agriculture Society from its beginning, also a member of the Westlock Old Timers' Association. As a young man he served on the Sunny Bank school board, and later he was secretary of the Wabash Mutual Telephone Company. He was one of the original workers to sign subscribers for rural electrification, then continued serving as a director. He was active in the Hazel Bluff United Church and served on the board of stewards.

On July 30, 1941, Leslie married Lucille Trueblood of Dapp, eldest daughter of Rose and Colby Trueblood. Leslie and Lucille have two children; Jim, who married Judy Anderson of Freedom, Alberta. They reside on the home place with their children Donna, Susan and Roy.

Eileen, R.N., who married Dr. Gary Muri, Veterinarian, of Barrhead, Alberta. Their four children are Dawn, Kerry, Ryan and Tyler.

Leslie passed away July 11, 1976. Interment was at Hazel Bluff cemetery.

## Harold Ray Hide

by Ann Hide

Harold Ray Hide was born on April 9, 1902, near Wingham, Ontario. With his father and mother, Henry and Harriet Hide, and his brothers Clifford and Leslie, they settled on a farm in the Sunnybank district, on the NW¼-13-60-27-W4. Ray attended the Swallowhurst and Sunnybank schools. In the early 1920's he went to Calgary Technical School. Later, he attended Alberta Business College in Edmonton.

In 1924 he started the garage business in partnership with Ambrose Harris, who sold "Star" cars. In 1925 they built the new garage on 107th Street in Westlock. He remained there until 1928. That year he went to work as a partsman and salesman for Gordon Pierce, selling Ford cars from the same building.

In 1931 the business was sold to Fred Forrester. The same year, Ray opened the Red Head Service Station, known as Ray's Service. It was located on the southwest corner of the intersection of 106 Street and 100 Avenue, where the Treasury Branch now stands.

In 1935 he acquired the Ford contract and operated from the same site.

In 1945 a two storey building was erected across the road, on the southeast corner of the intersection, where the Bank of Nova Scotia and Macleods are located. The lower floor of the building housed the offices, showrooms, partsroom and shop for Ford products and Oliver equipment, while the second floor was occupied by Town offices, a photographic studio, a lawyer's office and storage rooms for the garage.



Ray Hide's Service Station in 1930's, corner 100 Ave., 106 St., Westlock.

Ray also built the Alberta Cafe, which was next door and was operated by Wolsey Clark. For many years the Ford dealership included the Barrhead district as well as Westlock and surrounding area.

In 1947, this modern building burned down.

The same year, Ray built another garage on the site, and two years later he sold the business to T. J. McCallum.

In the 1940's Ray operated lumber mills in the Flatbush, Chisholm and Slave Lake areas. Some sections of Highway 44 in these districts follow the same lumber trails cleared by the men and equipment, to haul logs and lumber to and from these mills. During these years, he also opened the Westlock Cement Factory on 105th Street. Here a staff of local men made cement blocks and culverts. He closed this business in 1967.

In 1949 he went north to the Yukon, where he and Tom Rimmer of Pibroch purchased the salvage rights to the Canol Road and Pipeline. This was from Norman Wells to the Alaska Highway at Johnson's Crossing, a distance of 466 miles of mountainous and much unsurveyed terrain. While still engaged in the Canol Project he built the Teslin Inn on the shore of beautiful Teslin Lake, at mile 804 on the Alaska Highway. In 1955, very soon after he had rented the inn to Mr. Crum of Teslin, it burned to the ground while he was in Alaska and his family at home in Westlock.

Ray was also in charge of clearing the site for the tank farm at Haines, Alaska. In 1956-57 he received the contract with Gordon Wilson, of Dawson Creek, to clear a section of the right of way in Pine Pass, about eighty miles from Dawson Creek, for the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, which runs from Vancouver to Dawson Creek.

Following that, in 1957, he worked with Joe Kosiak building roads and well sites out from Ft. St. John, B.C. That year, in November, The Peace River Bridge on the Alaska Highway, went out when one of the anchors gave way on the north side. From 1958 to 1965, Ray did clearing and road building in this area, with his heavy equipment.

On December 10, 1965, he opened the first laundromat in Westlock in the Westlock Shopping Centre. The staff consisted of Goldie Beamish and Margaret Madson. Later on, Mary Violet joined the staff. This was sold to Earl Jensen on June 24, 1970.

Although Ray was involved in many projects out of the Westlock area, they provided employment for many men from the Barrhead, Fort Assiniboine, Clyde, Pibroch, Flatbush and Westlock districts. Endless hair-raising stories could be told of their experiences in those endeavors with Ray. He always kept his home in Westlock.

He was a member of the Westlock United Church and served on the Church Board for several years. He was a Charter Member of the Rotary Club, a member of the Oldtimers' Association, the Board of Trade, which later became the Westlock and District Chamber of Commerce. He enjoyed curling and participated in the formation of the Westlock Curling Club when it was located on 107th Street. Ray, along with D. M. Torrie, Dios Smith and Judge Fraser, represented the Westlock Curling Club in Edmonton bonspiels. He was not demonstrative in helping his fellow man, but did much in a quiet, unrecognized manner.

Ray married Anne Warring on August 2, 1941, at Picton, Ontario. Anne came to Westlock in September, 1939, as an exchange teacher, from Picton. She taught for many years in the Westlock Elementary School and retired in 1975. One of her first impressions on arriving in Westlock was the hospitality of the people, their pride in their homes and the town. At that time there was an absence of elderly people. It was truly a district of young people.

Their son, Charles Laurence (Larry), was active in sports, especially hockey. He now owns and operates C. L. Hide Operating Company in the gas fields of north western Alberta at Zama Lake. Stephanie and Christopher are their two children. He and his wife Heather (Bruder) have a home in Campbell River on Vancouver Island.

Ray passed away in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton on February 15, 1971.

Extract from the "Oliver Shield" for Jan-Feb. 1949

### **Hide Hits High Stride**

While H. Ray Hide is a comparatively young dealer, he has, in a short span, built up an ever increasing business in and surrounding Westlock, Alberta, Canada.

In 1931 Mr. Hide leased a small building and established an automobile sales company. With his selling background and fine service experience, Ray Hide was an instant success when he took the Oliver dealership in 1935.

A large new building was erected in 1945 but shortly after it opened, disaster struck and the building was destroyed by fire. Undaunted by this, he constructed his present Oliver headquarters two years later on the site of his former building.

Always mindful that service is the key to continuous business, Mr. Hide and his capable staff give close attention to their customers' requirements. The repair shop is equipped with modern tools and the parts department is well stocked with Oliver parts to meet any and all service problems.

### **Bob Hill and Family**

**submitted by Joyce Francis**

Robert Campbell Hill (Bob) and brother Henry filed on adjoining homesteads on April 22, 1912. The land description was N.E. 32-58-26-W4, and he always referred to that quarter as an old "timber



Bob, Victoria, Doris and Joyce Hill — 1939.



limit" which likely explained why there was so much work in dynamiting and pulling stumps to clear the land for cropping. He later purchased two other quarters of adjoining land where he carried on a mixed farming operation until May 7th 1945 when he sold to Mr. Cyriele Victoor.

About 1917 a small 2 room house was moved onto the homestead and the roof raised for a second storey. In 1918 Bob returned to his home at Guelph, Ontario for a holiday and while there married his long-time fiancée, Victoria Entwistle. They had 2 children, Doris Hill White (1925-1972) and Joyce Hill Francis (1929). Doris resided in Edmonton until 1963 then moved with her family to San Francisco where husband Bob works with United Airlines. They had 9 children, most of them are still in California. Joyce and husband Jack still live on the University Farm in Edmonton where their son and daughter have grown up and married.



Horsepower. Bob Hill's horses, Fanny, Prince, Nellie, Flora.

Some of the stories most often repeated were those about the bush or grass fires which seemed to happen periodically and caused a good deal of fear. Other tales included various ministers who travelled the area on horseback and often stayed overnight in their home, some of whom were rather new to such a rural life and thus caused some merriment by their inexperience.

The one and only car which Bob owned was a 1928 Essex Sedan which when sold in 1956 had only 24,000 miles on it.

They retired to Edmonton in 1945 where they enjoyed a number of years — Bob until 1955 and Victoria until 1974. Bob did some carpentry work and Victoria was active in the women's groups at McDougall United Church.

## Henry W. Hill Family by Jean Hill

Henry Westlake Hill (1886-1952) was born in West Garafraxa Township, Wellington County, On-

tario. He was one of the second generation of Hills born in Canada but his ancestors have been traced to England, and to the Lowlands and Highlands of Scotland. The early years of Henry, brother Robert (Bob), and two sisters were spent on farms near Guelph. They attended Watson School and were active in Sunday School and Church. In 1910 after helping his family move to their Erin farm, Henry came to Alberta to farm.



Henry Hill family. L to R: Roy, Henry, Ruth, Jean, Lizzie Hill. In front of their 1929 Pontiac car owned for twenty years and driven for 19 years.

He first worked on a farm near Balzac then later at draying in Edmonton. Bob had come West in 1911. He, Henry and many others slept overnight on the sidewalk in front of the Land Titles office in order to file for their homesteads on April 22, 1912. Section 32, Twp. 58, R. 26, W. of the 4th Meridian was obtained by four men.: E. J. McEvoy the N.W. ¼, Bob Hill the N.E. ¼, Henry the S.E. and A. L. Cook the S.W. Mr. Cook's land was later purchased by Henry. Thus the S. ½ of Sec. 32 and S ½ of 33 which he rented from George R. Smith for some twenty years comprised Henry's farm. Mr. Smith was for a number of years the Secretary-Treasurer of Hazelwood Municipality and a great community worker in Pickardville.)

On a log skidway, the only cleared spot on the two quarters, the Hill brothers built a log house on Henry's land. With the coming of winter, it was roofed minus two rows of logs. That meant a bumped head for anyone trying to stand up near the eaves on the upper floor. With the power of man, horse and stumping powder (dynamite), they worked at clearing the land of stumps. True bachelors, they told of having one pot in which they cooked porridge overnight, soup for lunch and stew for supper. After each meal the pot was wiped out ready for the contents of the next meal.

Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie) Carter (1890-1961) of Guelph, Ontario came to Edmonton where she and



At the Busby Fair, 1922.

Henry were married in January 1917. The temperature was  $-60^{\circ}\text{F}$  hence the newlyweds stopped overnight with friends at Ardrossan on the way home.

The Hill men appeared quiet mannered but they like to tease their families and close friends. Henry assured his children that he put a shipping tag (ring) on Lizzie before he left Ontario. During the seven years of engagement, she clerked in a dry goods store and looked after her grandparents. On the night Henry brought his bride home, Bob had made fresh bread which he proceeded to put in the cellar before bedtime. When Lizzie asked "why" Bob said 'to keep it from freezing'.

Henry, a firm believer of not having his eggs all in one basket, grew grain, raised beef cattle, pigs and sheep. For their own use they milked a few cows and raised some horses and several kinds of poultry. These operations necessitated the building of a barn, pigpen and hen house — all of log. Although an addition to the house, a garage, tractor shed, implement shed and new pigpen were built over the years, the log ones remained in use.

Both Hill brothers had a strong aversion to picking rocks from their Ontario days. Even though their homesteads were on the watershed, there were very few stones. In this they were lucky but the irony came when stones were needed for a basement, footings and/or floors of the newer buildings. Henry required many loads of stones to be hauled from west of Pickardville.

In due time the children of Lizzie and Henry arrived: Jean Marion in 1919, Roy Henry (1922-1978) and Ruth Elizabeth in 1925. Most of their formal education was taken in the Picardville School. Jean took Grade 12 and Normal School training in Edmonton. Roy also attended Normal.

Henry and Lizzie were active in the community. Mr. S. Glebe, Mr. G. R. Smith and Henry were

members of the Picardville School Board from about 1926 until the Sturgeon School Division was formed. The Hills belonged to the United Farmers of Alberta and later their children to the Junior U.F.A. In provincial and federal elections, Henry was sometimes the enumerator, a deputy returning officer or a poll clerk. He along with many of the pioneers worked on the Pickardville Presbyterian Church and the Community Hall. Lizzie was active in the Pickardville Ladies Aid and later the Women's Association. Because Lizzie's heart condition grew worse, they regretted not being able to take part in some of the community activities in later years.

Roy Hill returned to farming after a short teaching experience at Blue Jay School (Near Lac La Biche) during his Normal School year. Then he changed to the lumber business by starting with winter work in the bush. As a member of the staff of W. H. Clark Lumber he worked at various jobs until he learned to be an estimator.

In July 1945 Roy married Bridget R. Mulgrew (1922) a lass who came as a very young child to Clandonald from County Tyrone, Ireland. They had three children.

In June 1946 Ruth married Arthur W. Tobler (1921) who was born at Duchess, Alberta. Besides being a homemaker, Ruth cooked for construction camps where Art and others worked on irrigation projects near Bassano, and in the Calgary General Hospital in Central Supply and as a Nursing Aide. They currently live in Calgary where Ruth continues to work at the Hospital.

Jean taught for forty years: in classrooms at Imogen (near Gadsby), Vermilion Springs (now a museum), Pickardville and Bon Accord, then at the Alberta Correspondence School for  $33\frac{1}{2}$  years. Now retired, she continues some activities in McDougall United Church and in the community.

In 1946 Henry sold his farm to Adolph Mauch whose son Raymond now farms the land. By this time Henry and Lizzie both had failing health. They retired to live at 10547-127 Street in a brick house which eventually housed Bridget, Roy, Jean as well as three children.

Happily Lizzie and Henry enjoyed their years in Edmonton. They travelled to Ontario by car twice. Of course they found much pleasure in being with several members of their family and three lovely grandchildren.

## The Max Hill Story by Florence Hill

In 1941, the Max Hill family moved into the Sunniebend district in Alberta, where they had bought a quarter of land from Ervin Laun. I believe



there were only forty acres broken on it at that time, but it had a fair amount of bush on it, and no buildings, so the first thing we had to do was build a house to live in, and also a barn. At that time lumber was pretty cheap, only about seventeen dollars a thousand, I believe, but of course, money was scarce too, so we had to count our pennies!

Well, we started to build a house right away, and by the time winter came, we had the outside shell done. We didn't have any partitions, so we hung blankets here and there to create a little privacy. There were just 2 x 4's where the walls of the rooms were to be, and the mice used to play games on them every night, so we had some exciting times!

Marshall and Erma, also Grandpa and Grandma Hill had moved in a couple of years before us, so we had close neighbours.



Lou and Ida Hill's house.

That year the wind really blew, and ashes from bush fires flew everywhere; then fires would break out every once in a while in the buckskin (peat moss), and that was very terrifying to us as we came originally from the prairies and were not used to that sort of thing.

At that time, our oldest girl, Lorna, was ready to start school, and she had to ride four miles on horseback, which was a long way for a six year old to go alone. We didn't even have a decent road then, (which made matters worse). It had been burned out. Of course, in those days there were not many good roads in the country. If it rained, they were almost impassable. Many times we were stuck and had to dig mud out from around the wheels of our vehicle. The buckskin wasn't sticky but it was quite easy to get stuck in that, too.

Then, in 1944, the flood came, covering many peoples farms with water. We had most of our land washed out that year, but fortunately, we had the old milk cows to sustain us, and our wants were few. We

seemed to be happy, with a few sticks of furniture and plenty to eat.

We lived at Sunniebend for eight years, and then decided to buy a half-section west of Dapp, as we needed more land and it was much nicer for the children to go to school on the bus. There we remained until he moved into Westlock in 1969.

I haven't told much about the family. We had six children, five girls and a boy, Lorna, the oldest, was born at Consort, Alberta, and married Les Seatter. They now reside in White Rock, B.C.

Shirley was born at Viking, Alberta and is married to Jack Hackman; They live at Namao.

The other four children were born at Westlock. Eva married Al Zaborowsky and they live at Legal. Pat is married to Rick Rowland and their place of residence is in Calgary. Delvin lives in Edmonton, with his wife Shawna, who was also a Rowland. Karen, the youngest, married Stuart McNelly and they live in Clyde at present.

Max passed away in September, 1969, so I am living in the Lored Apartments in Westlock now.

### Leslie and Ella Hodgins

Born in Northern Ireland, near Belfast, Ella Kirkwood came, at the age of eight, to Bonnie Doon, which at that time consisted of scattered houses on acreages. Here her father started a retail dairy farm, and with six children growing up, the Kirkwood home was a lively place.



Hodgins Family. Luella, Margaret, Tom, Harry and Betty.

Les was only three when his folks left his birthplace, Lucan, Ontario, in 1900, and came west to settle on a farm at Ardrossan, just east of Edmonton.

The years went fast. Les grew up to become a promising young farmer, while Ella, after a commercial course at King Edward School, started working at The Hudson's Bay.

How did they meet? Well, Les had a Ford Sedan, and one of his favorite places on a Friday night was the East Edmonton Hall, on the way out to Cooking Lake. It was there, at a dance, that he found himself intrigued with a pair of smiling Irish eyes, and there followed a romance which grew until it culminated in their marriage in 1927.

They farmed in the Ardrossan area for ten years, during which time four children, Luella, Tom, Margaret and Harry were born.

The family then moved to a farm near Manola, where later Betty, their last child, was born.

"We were strangers in a strange land", says Ella, recalling how, the day after they arrived, Tom lost the tip of a finger in the seeder, and she was forced to play doctor.



Les and Ella Hodgins on their Golden Wedding day. Back: Tom and Harry. Front: Luella, Margaret and Betty.

There were other calamities, but, in general, their lives went smoothly. The farm prospered. The children all grew up, married, and started homes of their own, and there are now nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren added to the family tree.

Les and Ella lived on at Manola until 1975, when they moved to Southview Apartments in Westlock, where they are enjoying retirement.

Les and Ella celebrated their golden wedding in 1977 and all their family attended.

## The Hogarth Family by Paul and Molly Renaud

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hogarth came to the Westlock district from Scotland in 1925. They settled on a quarter section of land which was located five miles west and south of Westlock, where they worked hard clearing and breaking the land. By applying the good husbandry Mr. Hogarth had learned in his native Scotland, he made a good living off this 160 acres. He obtained a fine herd of high producing registered Jersey cows, as well as a good line of hogs, and over two hundred turkeys and chickens.



Mr. R. Hogarth on the farm, 1944.

All the food was produced on the farm. The wheat was hauled by wagon to the mill in Westlock, where it was milled into flour. All the vegetables and meats, as well as the wild berries, were processed to be used throughout the year. Mrs. Hogarth made butter for many years, selling it to stores and private customers. She won first prize each year at the local fair, for butter.

Although times were hard and money scarce during the depression, the Hogarth's door was always open. Anyone, whether they were strangers, friends



Robert Hogarth family. Front: Bob and Mary. Back: Kay, Pat, Tom, Carrie and Molly.



or neighbors, were always invited to stay for a meal, a night, a week or until they were ready to leave — often they would stay for months!

Mr. Hogarth was a hard worker and a proud farmer. He also served on the Wood Glen School Board for many years. As well, he was an ardent church worker. He helped build the present Roman Catholic Church in Westlock.

The Hogarth family consisted of six children; Kathleen (Renaud), Molly (Renaud), Jean, Tom, Patricia (Walls), and Carrie (LaBrosse). They all attended Wood Glen School and also took high school in Westlock.

Mr. and Mrs. Hogarth retired to Westlock in 1960. Mr. Hogarth passed away in 1981 at the age of 94. Mrs. Hogarth, who is now 89, is a resident of Pembina Lodge. Molly Renaud is the only other member of the Hogarth family still residing in Westlock.

## The Hokes

### 60 years in the Westlock District

Jim and Mary Hoke arrived in Alberta from Western Colorado on February 2nd, 1915. They had two children, George, six, and Doris, three. A third child, Margaret was born on their first farm north of Spruce Grove, Alberta in July, 1915.

In 1918 the farm at Spruce Grove was sold and the family moved to a quarter-section four miles west of Vimy, Alberta. George, who had started school in

Spruce Grove received the balance of his schooling at several country schools surrounding the farm. Doris and Margaret finished elementary and high school in the Westlock school.

After eight years on the farm at Vimy the family moved to Dapp, Alberta where the parents retired in 1937. Jim died in June, 1947 and Mary joined him in the Dapp cemetery in the autumn of 1958.

George married Mary Bowman of Vegreville on March 1, 1937 and they farmed at Dapp until the present, (1981) when they retired to an apartment in Westlock. Besides being a farmer's wife, Mary Hoke taught school for 21 years in the Dapp district.

Doris married Martin Felstad of Dapp in 1937. She too, now a widow, has moved into Westlock.

Margaret became a R.N. She later married Gus Lapp of Medicine Hat, Alberta. Gus was an ordained Minister but spent most of his working career with Indian Affairs, both Provincial and Federal. The Lapps are retired in Toronto.

Going back to the year 1918 and the Vimy area, we found that, where Spruce Grove was a well developed farming district, the Vimy area was just emerging from the poverty and hardships of early homestead days. The correction line six miles south of Westlock was, in 1918, still an ungraded trail that struggled to stay on the survey line marked out be-



George and Mary Hoke's wedding, 1937.



Mrs. Hoke, Doris and Margaret, 1920.

tween Vimy and Pickardville. Most of the roads were the same. Highway 18 was a reasonably fair dirt road as was Highway #2 from Clyde to Morinville. The first real improvement on Highway #2 began in 1926 but several years passed before the first gravelled roads appeared north of Morinville.

Farms were small and almost everyone depended heavily on eggs, homemade butter, and an occasional cream cheque to buy the weekly staples at the country stores. Staples like coffee, tea, beans, sugar, and the usual small can of kerosene for the lamps was about all one could afford. Most country storekeepers included free a paper bag of hard candy tucked in amongst the weekly groceries. All children looked forward to this treat.

Farm fields were small and there were very few tractors. Those were the days of the horse, both for pulling power and transportation. The ripe bundles of grain were usually stacked for threshing. There were not many threshers throughout the country, hence stook threshing was not popular owing to the slowness of a thresher getting to a farm before snow came. Sometimes it was near Christmas before many could expect to get their crop threshed.

Most of the threshing rigs were steam powered, but I remember one small rig that did our threshing one fall at Vimy. The power came from a ten-horse stationary engine with huge flywheels. It was mounted on a steel wagon and was pulled around by horses. The thresher was unique. It was hand fed. The grain came down a long spout into a two-bushel bag held by a man called the "bagger". He stood in the back of a wagon drawn up to the spout. Each bag held what was estimated at two bushels. Twenty-two bags filled the wagon-box, standing openmouthed. When a wagon was loaded the wagoneer headed for the granary where each bag must be wrestled inside, up the slanting mound of grain and dumped at the top, a very hard way to move grain.

At the thresher a man stood on a platform before the 'feed' end of the machine. He was equipped with a special knife with which he must slash the twine which bound each bundle and then push the bundle into the maw of the machine.

Can you picture this man standing on a hot September day, clad in a shirt of red underwear, slashing twine on sheaves of prickly barley beards? He looked like a porcupine and likely felt like one (with its skin turned inside out).

Two small boys (this was where I first became a thresher) armed with forks stood under the straw conveyor which carried the straw from the rear of the thresher. They must never allow the straw to pile up to interfere with the conveyor chain. To many boys the invention of a straw blower was a blessing indeed.

It was exactly thirty miles to the new farm we acquired at Dapp, Alberta, in 1926. We moved everything except hay and feed grain by road. Several Vimy neighbors helped. Three hayracks were loaded with the contents of the house plus any small items of tools and appliances that could be wedged on. One wagon held ten small calves. My friend, George Sterling and I, mounted on our favorite saddle horses manouvered some twenty head of cattle out of the home corral and strung them out behind the wagons. Our parents went ahead with the fastest team hitched to the democrat, well loaded down with a crate of small pigs and another of chickens. They hoped to make the thirty miles to the new farm early and be ready to receive the rest of us when we arrived.

We had very little trouble along the road. We nooned just north of Westlock on what is now highway 44. It was then a dirt road which followed the railroad northward on the west side at the time, crossing the track four miles north where the highway now bends across Weisel Creek.

It was at this crossing, old Tom, our only led horse, broke away from where he was tied behind one of the loads. He took the whole end out of the hayrack and ran a mile before we horsemen finally caught up with him. We decided that George Sterling would take Tom from then on and get him quickly to the new farm. I was left alone to handle the cattle.

Supper found the caravan at Irish Creek where the Hutterite colony borders the highway now. There the tired cattle enjoyed their first drink since leaving the Vimy corral. A mile north of Irish Creek arrangements had been made with Mr. Zeise to hold the cattle overnight in his pasture.

I found myself with the unpleasant task of milking ten cows, all of them being used to being tied in their stalls. But they were tired and stood quietly to be milked. The milk went to feed the ten little calves.

Next morning I threw the herd back onto the road at five A.M., well ahead of the caravan. George met me two miles from Dapp and the trip was over by noon. The beasts were turned into a temporary pasture along the Pembina river which they promptly swam to the far side. Mike, my horse refused to cross after them and so I was forced to ride around by the Dapp bridge and drive them back to their new home. They did not swim again.

I had two more trips to make from Vimy to Dapp, each time to move machinery, a binder and a twelve-foot hay rake. The binder was easy but the rake — the road was scarcely twelve feet wide and when he met a rig I had to back the rake into the ditch each time. I'd sure hate to try that today on 44.

We enjoyed the river farm. We found the community to our liking as well. When Father sold this



farm in 1946 and left me and my family sort of hanging in the air, we faced a problem. Mary's father offered to rent his farm at Vegreville to us but we wanted to stay in the Dapp district. We finally bought a half section nearby where we made our home for the past 35 years.

During that time Mary taught school for 21 years and I spent one year managing Dapp's Bulk oil station and several years operating a pool-room in Dapp.

In 1962 we bought a good quarter section across the road from our home and had built our first real house three years prior to then. Our affairs improved since then and in June 1981 we rolled over our property to our two children.

We suffered two disasters during our 45 years of married life. In 1946 the Pembina flooded Father's farm which we were renting at the time. We lost heavily from the flood as did so many people along the river.

Then, in 1968 fire destroyed our farmyard. Fanned by a high wind the fire took twelve buildings leaving only the house and garage, plus much of the contents including some livestock.

Our desire earlier to make our home in the Dapp neighbourhood was well founded. After our fire our neighbours and friends came to our aid and raised over \$800.00 at a 'Dutch Auction' which sum they turned over to us.

From Vimy to Dapp and finally back to Westlock. This is our history as citizens of Westlock and District. But in the hearts of both of us we are still and always will be just plain Dappites.

### **The Thomas Holley Story as told by his nephew Thomas Townsend**

My uncle Tom Holley was born in Huddersfield, County York, England in 1873. While still a very young man he left England and set sail for Canada. He found his way to Northern Alberta where he took up a homestead in 1909 situated a few miles east of Eastburg along the "Finnegan Road". In 1919 he moved to Pickardville and my father, Claude Townsend, built the brick foundation for his house that was to be a landmark for all these many years. Soon after Martha (Nee Liversage) joined him from England.

Over the years Tom Holley was deeply involved in the business of the newly formed town. Singly or together for a period of years he handled the mail and post office, ran a hardware store and farm implement agency, a lumber yard and an oil dealership. He constructed the building which still stands just east of the United Church. At one time he kept a team of horses to haul machinery around. He hired a man named Mr. Torrence to look after the team and do the

hauling. Torrence lived in the front of this building while the back part was a stable for the horses. The building was later converted to a restaurant and a Chinese gentleman operated it for years. I remember he always bought a Westlock Witness from me for 5 cents on Saturday mornings. He had a young relative about 14 living with him. I think his name was Ma Chong who attended the old tin school with us.

Mr. Torrence later bought the farm a mile west of town, just north of the cemetery although I can't remember him ever living there but a couple named Van Ebbs did for a number of years.

A family named Faulks then moved into Uncle Tom's old building by the church and opened a butcher shop in part of it. Mrs. Faulks often joked about sleeping in the stable for their back bedroom was at one time the stable.

Uncle Tom was also a busy man socially. He was a member of the church choir and Glee Club. The English concertina which he played beautifully was a real novelty and his music was always included in every concert or social gathering. His rendition of "The Bells of St. Mary" was so perfect I swear you would think the bells were really ringing right there in the room. I shall never forget the duets he sang with his sister Emma, (my mother) They were hilarious. Uncle Tom and Aunt Martha played a large part in making the United Church a possibility in the early 1920's and the ministers were always expected for dinner on a Sunday.

In the early 1930's Uncle Tom was joined in business by Mr. Arthur Ross. In 1933/1934 the Hardware store was sold to the partnership of Gillmore and Harrison. Then Uncle had time for his hobby of wood carving. They were kind and good neighbors, never too busy to lend a helping hand in times of illness etc. There is no doubt Tom Holley certainly left his mark on Pickardville in those early days. He and Aunt Martha were indeed a couple of Alberta's finest pioneers. Aunt Martha passed away in 1939 and Uncle Tom 10 years later on his way back to Edmonton from Vancouver where he had resided for a short time.

### **1922-1953 at Westlock by Archie Hollingshead written March 3, 1967**

There was an old quotation that went the rounds in the Ontario backwoods which declared, "A fool and his money are soon parted."

This seemed to apply to my early life roaming in Alberta. My travels took me to Athabasca, then an interlude of roustabouting at the Pacific coast, Yukon and Alaska. Returning to Alberta in the spring of 1919 with a hangover of homesteading, I took a look

at the Peace River country, and I then wandered south to the ranch country west of Olds.

By this time I was nearing 27 years of age so figured it was time to settle down at something. Having had a brush with Pole-Line work, I enquired around and was taken on the local telephone staff at Olds. I then discovered I was an employee of Alberta Government Telephones. This was a somewhat incongruous role for me, as we roustabouts castigated such a home guard as a guy who wore government socks, hated his grandmother and didn't love Jesus. However, it turned out to be a job that was reasonably agreeable and remunerative and I stayed with it for thirty-nine years.



Early days in Westlock.

In the shuffle of former employees coming back from the war, I was shifted to gangs out of Edmonton. Thus in the autumn of 1920 we built the local exchange in Westlock.

Around Thanksgiving time, the Church ladies put on a chicken supper. The excellence of that meal sold me on Westlock, and a couple of years later, when I was offered the Westlock District I had no hesitation in taking it.

I do not know the date of telephone service extended to Westlock, but it would be following Government's purchase of Bell Company's installations in 1908. The Liberal party in power in those years undertook a considerable expansion of the utility from humanitarian and colonization incentives. The program consisted of Spokes of Substation Toll lines projected out from the larger centres. The North Spoke out of Edmonton reached out as far as Morinville, and later extended, around 1912, to Clyde, with a branch west five miles to Edison. The following year or two, the west branch was extended to Hazel Bluff, and a line built north and east to Athabasca. The extension of Old Barrhead did not come until the railroad established Westlock. These initial lines were Pay Station Tributary Toll Lines, with the telephones mainly in roadside farm houses at four to five

mile intervals. They were not unlike rural party lines, except they were heavier gauge wire and a higher classification of maintenance.

The first Central office consisted of a small switchboard in the George McTavish store, with Elizabeth McGregor as the "Hello Girl." The next move was to a small frame office erected adjacent to Charlie Roulstan's printing office, following the completion of the Exchange Installation in 1920, with Clara Jorgenson as Agent Operator.

Westlock was served with a farmer-owned party line strung around the streets, serving the doctors and a few businesses and residences. Notable among these were Lennox Tice Drug Store and the Paddy and Wener stock and fur buying office. The accent on agriculture in those times had precedence of the farmers having rural telephones before they were characteristic of the town dweller.



Early days in Westlock.

In the year I moved to Westlock, (1922), the A.G.T. was a sort of family compact. We all felt we owned a share of it. We juggled along familiarly with its crank and cuss equipment and juvenile simplicity, with a mind and spirit free with a closer touch with patrons and neighbours. The Westlock Farmers had built their own line west of town. The north, east and south areas were served with Government Rurals. Mrs. B. Swan and daughters were the Agent and Operators in the office in the rented Dr. Geddes house on the corner of second street and main. A small box-like addition had been added to the plain, clapboard residence, to house the Switchboard and Booth, with the Swan family occupying the dwelling.

The village of Westlock with its residential sections, a canopy of natural trees, its homes and early schools and churches was, I think, the most delightful and sociable place to live in Alberta. The telephone Central, with a finger on the pulse of the residents habitude, gave an intimacy of close fellowship with the community, and a very cherished personal privilege and pleasure.





More recent picture of Westlock.

It never occurred to me to count the number of towns, villages, hamlets and roadside Toll Stations in the district, or the miles of wire tying them all together. I guess they kept me too busy keeping them operative to be intimidated by their formidableness, I am happy to include my wife, Helen, in this incumbency. She co-operatively tolerated delayed meals and unaccompanied attendance at local doings, as I never knew in the mornings where I would sleep the nights. I am not too sure telephone work was my best way to serve the Lord but the role has been enacted and the part can be censored for what it was worth.

We oldsters are somewhat prone to lament our fate of having been born too soon, in view of younger peoples way of life today, but we had the experience of knowing much of the country in its primeval state. We have appreciated the human worth of each other; the satisfaction of accomplishing objectives of progress; of attaining an individual identity; of creating and bequeathing a heritage. These things have been a fulfillment of life. These things have proven it is more blessed to give than to receive.

### **“Judie’s Place” Holm, Harold and Judie**

Harold George Holm was born on September 5, 1945 in Westlock and was raised in Dapp, Alberta. He received his education in Dapp and Westlock.

After his school years, he farmed with his parents George and Thelma Holm and his brother Robert.

On February 4, 1967 Harold married Judie Patricia Petryshyn of Westlock.

Judie was born and raised in Terrace, B.C. and moved to Edmonton in August, 1965 to study Beauty Culture. She became a licensed hairdresser in April, 1966 and started work at the Town & Country Beauty Salon when the Westlock Shopping Centre first opened.

In the fall of 1975 the family farm was sold. Harold and Judie and their family then moved into the hamlet of Dapp where Harold was employed by Alberta Wheat Pool as assistant grain buyer.

On May 20, 1979 the Holm family moved to Westlock. Harold presently has his own contracting business for maintenance and janitorial services.

Judie opened her own beauty shop “Judie’s Place” in July, 1979. She is also an active member of the Westlock Drama Society and the Westlock A.C.L.D.

Harold & Judie have four sons, all born in Westlock.

Dwayne is 16 years old and in grade 11. He is also studying grade 8 piano as well as teaching piano.

Daryl is 13 years old, in grade 8 and is active in all sports especially hockey and baseball.

Kevin is 10 years old, grade 5 and is also active in hockey and baseball.



Corey is 8 years old, in grade 2 and is in his first year of hockey and is also taking piano lessons.

Also residing in Westlock are: Harold's father George, two brother's and sisters-in-law Robert and Millie and their three children and Marvin and Cheryl and their two children.

## **The Hone Family of Clyde**

**by Alma Lux**

The Hone family came to Clyde district in March, 1922, after roaming like a band of gypsies since their immigrating to Canada in 1904. Father, with a degree in horticulture, thought that he could make his fortune in the new country. Mother, a young Scotch lass fresh out of Lindsay Girls College, was all for adventure, and would join her true love in Toronto. In 1905, they were married in Hamilton, spending their honeymoon at Niagara Falls, the honeymoon spot of that era.

Illness caused them to return to England; by this time they had two small children to pack along. Canada was still in their hearts, so soon after my father recovered, they came back to Canada — the Land of Promise. Settling in Ontario, then in Saskatchewan, they finally travelled further west to Alberta, settling in Edson. "Go West, young man" was the thing of that day. So getting all rigged out for a hazardous trip to Beaverlodge, with covered wagon drawn by a team of oxen and all the provisions that could be loaded, we took off over the Edson trail. Peter Dell, (an old friend and a pioneer from Rudell, Saskatchewan) was the teamster. There were five of us in total: Peter, Mother and three small children aged three, four and five years. We started on the journey, which lasted for weeks. The Northwest Mounted Police were a Godsend for the early settlers, travelling on horseback seeing that no one was ill or starving. I'll always remember how striking they looked in their nice red uniforms and they rode such pretty horses. The country was full of bears and Mother wouldn't let us stray too far from our camps.

Father was already in Beaverlodge to greet us. Beaverlodge was not inviting. We had to build a log shack and make furniture of poles. We used candles for light and there was a dirt floor. This was far from the life we had been used to, so before winter set in, we started the long trek back. Mother, Peter, three girls, covered wagon, oxen and a cow which we had tied behind the wagon. The cow soon learned to follow the oxen and didn't have to be tied up as we made our way. While we were in Beaverlodge, Mother played the accordin for dances, Nellie and I danced the Highland Fling and other dances. This delighted the Indians, with our pretty white dresses, silk tartan ribbons and shiny brooches. We children

were always frightened of the Pow-Wows that would go on until all hours of the night, but were fascinated to see the little 'papooses' in the trees. It was on that trip, at a stopping place on the way back, an Indian lady was bathing her young son — the first time I had seen a naked male baby — I knew then there was a difference between little boys and little girls.

When we arrived in Athabasca we were delighted to stay in a hotel. This hotel still stands to this day. The next day we left for Edmonton. Dad remained in Beaverlodge and followed us to Edmonton later on. While there, he attended Alberta College to obtain a degree in Telegraphy; then we were off again to Edson. Illness in the family forced us to move back to Edmonton, and then on to Saskatchewan. Dad remained in Edmonton to go back to his horticulture work. It really worked out that it was Edmonton in the winter and Saskatchewan in the summer.

During one of these trips to Saskatchewan, our youngest sister was born — now four girls in all. By this time my mother and father decided to try something different. And different it was! They bought a farm six and a half miles northwest of Clyde, had cattle, horses, and farm machinery shipped from Rudell (Peter Dell's farm). Peter was planning on settling with us. He stayed a while but longed for the prairies where he had settled in the early years. Father was no farmer — not knowing the first thing about farming such as how to milk a cow or harness a horse. He had to learn the hard way. Mother fitted in quite well, as her family had a dairy farm back in Scotland. She took care of the daily chores. Father soon learned how to harness a horse, but was never happy with his new venture.

When we arrived in Clyde, the girls were Nellie, 16 years, Alma, 14 years, Bunnie, 13 years and Billie, 4 years old. Clyde was quite a village then. When we stepped off the train we had lots of restaurants to choose from. Some of the restaurant owners were outside ringing little dinner bells. To us, this was really intriguing. From all the choices, we picked "Cunningham's." The other restaurants were Clyde Hotel, Fortier's and the Chinaman's. We had a car meet us to take us to our farm. We were really downhearted when we saw the place. The outbuildings were log, the house was log too, but covered with siding on the outside. The paper on the inside was a blue paper which I will never forget; a far cry from the nice red outbuildings and plastered home that we had come from. We cried for weeks. We could go upstairs and look at the countryside outside. We were used to the bald-headed prairie in the summer and city lights in the winter.

After we started school, we met such a lot of friendly children — friendships that were to last a



lifetime. The school bus was a treat to us. George Beaton was the driver; a very tall man and very patient. In winter we rode in a covered sled pulled by two strong horses. Charles Edgson was the teamster, a very good natured man who used to sing to us.

By now we were well established in our new neighbourhood. To the south — the Jim Green family, the Clarence Davis family, the Albert Nelsons', the Pauchels, Coopers, Harris's, Haywoods. Coles and Clouthiers, Lanktries, Blythes, Englands — all were good neighbours and lived close by. At picnics and concerts, Bunnie and I used to dance. After a few nasty remarks were made, we gave up our dancing. In those early years, the community used to have surprise parties in the winters, — taking turns — the lady of the house would make the coffee and the guests would bring the refreshments. There was alot of talent in the country to provide music. These parties had such a good fellowship, and brought joy during the harsh winters. In the summer we had picnics in the Jack-pines.

Harvest was another good time, with everybody helping one another. Mr. Hobart did our threshing; he was a tall, quiet man. We were used to much larger threshing outfits. Having the wood-cutters come in the winter was another good time, the farmers getting together to cut each others woodpile and the ladies would visit. All these affairs were complemented by a fine meal. These years were special to me and my family.

In 1925, Nellie (my oldest sister) married Roy Cole, a neighbour boy whose parents were early settlers. The same year, I married Harold Nelson, also the son of an early settler. His father had built many buildings that still stand today. My brother was born in July of 1925 — it was quite a year for the Hone household. Harold and Louis Nelson had a garage in Clyde at that time. Later, Harold worked for James Taylor who had the Massey-Harris Agency. After a while he went back to work for his brother, L. G. Nelson who had the I.H.C. Dealership. In 1931 Harold took the British American Oil Dealership.

Harold and I were roamers for a while, from the Lucis place (our first home), then to Clyde, on to the Fin place, back to the Lucis place and finally back to Clyde where Harold bought a farm north-east of the village. We built a new house in September, 1929. By this time we had three children: Geneva, Raymond and Ronald. We had a cow, pigs, chickens and a cat! Everything seemed to be going well 'til Harold caught the 'flu'; complications took their toll and Harold passed away January 23, 1933. It was in the depression and times were really tough for a widow to feed and clothe the children and herself. I was not allowed to have male boarders (**How Times Have**

**Changed**). I was thankful I had the cow, pigs and chickens. I took in a bit of sewing. I had a treadle machine and worked by the light of a coal-oil lamp. Later, I was allowed boarders so I sold the cow and pigs as they were not producing but kept the chickens until the boys grew older and were able to deliver papers. They bought bicycles and models with the money they made.

1933 was a sad year for us. Peter Dell came from Saskatchewan to spend his last years with the family he loved. It was on his farm at Rudell that we spent our happiest times. He passed away February 26, 1933.

To add to our sorrow, our father passed away December 29, 1936. They were preparing to move again, this time west to B.C. The carload of household goods and animals had already arrived at Nelson when my father's health began to fail. Mother went to Nelson, sold the belongings, came back, had a sale, settled up the business and headed for Edmonton, with the two younger children.

In 1937 our sister Billie, married Edmond Ducharme, a farmer's son from the Pibroch district. They farmed there for a while then left for Edmonton.

In 1940 I married Walter Lux. His family emigrated from the U.S. and farmed in the Rochester district. Walter took over the trucking after Harold passed away, later buying the town business from Sid Jones. Our brother, Lyle, married Fern Millar of Edmonton, while he was in the Air Force. They lived in Barry, Ontario and then went to Edmonton.

Our first child, Warren Rodney, was born in 1944 and two years later our daughter, Margaret Ann arrived.

Geneva married James Berwick in 1949, a returned man. They bought a farm near Clyde.

More sadness came to our family when our sister Nellie passed away suddenly; they farmed at Rossington. She left to mourn, besides her husband, three children, and many friends. She was "Ma Cole" to all her neighbours and was sadly missed by the whole community.

In November of 1951, Ronald married Iris Little, from Westlock, whose parents were oldtimers of the Hazel Bluff district. Their first home was in Clyde.

Ray married Leona Watson, a girl from Blythe, Ontario in 1956. They made their home in Richmond, B.C.

In 1959 our mother passed away in Edmonton after a long illness. She never lost her courage; longed for a trip back to her native Scotland. I went in her place, years later, to pick the heather in the hills with memories of her in my heart.

Warren Rodney married Donna Turner of Westlock in August, 1966. The Turners were also from the

Hazel Bluff district in the early years. They roamed a while finally settling in St. Albert.

Margaret lived in Edmonton for a time, went on to Toronto, then came back to Edmonton. She has a business in Millwoods and resides there.

We sold our trucking business in 1976. It was well known as Lux Transport. We have ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren — our contribution to the population. Now, like my parents before me, I have the itch for a change, maybe to the west.

It is interesting to note that Alma's oldest son, Ray, is a pilot with Air Canada, and flies regular runs out of Vancouver. In turn, his two sons are both pilots. Michael Nelson is a bush pilot in northern Manitoba and his brother, Robert Nelson is a pilot with Air Canada.

### George and Olive Hope by Olive Hope

George Hope was born in England on October 6, 1906. He came to St. John, New Brunswick with his parents, as a baby. As a young lad he left St. John and came west to Saskatchewan and worked on his Uncle's farm at Liberty, Sask. In 1924 he came to Halfway Lake with his Uncle and cousin. He worked for different farmers there, eventually coming to work for Albert Nelson at Clyde. During this time he had met Olive Green at a dance at Clyde Hall, and in 1929 they were married. Olive was born in Edmonton on May 12, 1910 and came to Clyde in 1916 with her parents. She attended Dungannon School until the Clyde Consolidated School was opened in 1921. She



Joyce and George Hope having a snowball fight.

belonged to the Clyde C.G.I.T. group, run by Mrs. Nickerson. Several enjoyable summers were spent at Island Lake, east of Clyde, with the Westlock C.G.I.T. group. She rode her ponies and showed calves at the Westlock Fairs and at the Edmonton Spring Shows, won several prizes, and has a gold medal for best girl rider at the Edmonton Spring Show in 1921. Those were always real fun-filled two

weeks in the Edmonton Shows. Clyde picnics and dances were always eagerly looked forward to, also.

After George and Olive were married, George worked for Abe Nelson in his garage at Clyde, then for Albert Nelson running his "Cat" tractor, grading new roads north and west of Westlock.

In the spring of 1930 they bought the NW¼ 17-60-25 W4 from the Soldiers Settlement Board. While there, their first daughter, Joyce, was born on July 16, 1931, and second daughter, Jean, was born on December 30, 1935. This farm was a good blueberry farm. Many hundreds of pounds of berries were picked, and sold to help buy groceries, etc. One year Olive snared and skinned thirty rabbits and sold the skins for ten cents each!



Olive and George Hope. Olive holding Jean; Joyce and George.

In 1942 Mr. Buckley Ferguson wanted to sell the Hopes his farm. They jumped at the chance because it was one of the best quarters in the district. They let the Soldiers' Settlement place go back to the Government, and moved that spring. Before that, Joyce took four years at Clyde school, then both girls went to Poplar Knoll, and took high school in Westlock. Both girls belonged to Prosperous and Pibroch Calf Clubs at one time. Olive was President of Westlock Farm Womens' Organization for nine years.

When Mrs. John England decided to sell her



farm, the Hopes bought it; that was the NE¼ 30-60-25 W4.

In 1974 they sold the farm to Willie and Seigfried Huppertz, and retired to Westlock. On March 18, 1979 George and Olive celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Joyce married Ole Myhre, and they have four sons, and live in Edmonton.

Jean married Clarence Brock. They have two daughters and one son and also live in Edmonton.

### **The Horrocks Family by Mrs. Frank Roberts**

The Horrocks family immigrated from England to Canada in 1910. Mr. Sam Horrocks Sr. settled in Edmonton. Sam, his son came to the Hazel Bluff area and homesteaded there. His sister Susan joined him once the cabin was built. He farmed until 1947 when he retired and moved to Westlock.

He built a home for himself and Susan. Ruth and Wilfred joined them so Sam built a bigger house across the street for the family.

None of the above were married. Their brother Albert and his wife Jennie settled in Westlock and had a home of their own.

They were members of the United Church and the Anglican church. Wilfred played the organ at the United church for many years.

### **The Edourd Houle's**

My name is Edourd Houle and my wife's name is Yvonne. We have two boys Robert and Alain.

I was born in Morinville in 1937 on Dec. 2nd on my grandfather's homestead which he had taken in 1891 — two miles west and three-quarters of a mile south of Morinville.

In 1956 I moved to Pickardville and I finished my high school in Westlock, that is my grade twelve.

My father had bought Mr. Louis Lambert's farm located four and three quarter miles south of the Hazel Bluff Church.

When we first arrived here in the month of March, 1956 we had a severe snowstorm and when the huge amount of snow started to melt we had to catch the bus first by crossing the Wabash Creek with a boat then walk to the correction line south of us. The roads in our area were not in the best of shape.

After I was finished school I decided to stay on the farm with my Father. In 1971 I purchased four quarters from my Father and on Dec. 4th I married Yvonne Letourneau of Edmonton. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Letourneau then of Lac La Biche. My parents Mr. and Mrs. Emilien Houle moved to a new house in Eastglen Westlock. In 1972 I purchased a quarter in the Arvilla area from Mr. Jim



Ed Houle and family.

Sandison, a very good friend of mine, this proved to be a good buy.

In 1973, on October 12th we were bless with a lively little boy we named Robert. Then in 1975 on August 6th his little brother Alain came along. Now both boys have grown and are both going to school at St. Marys Westlock.

In 1979 I started building a new house and on May 28th 1981 we moved into it. These were hectic times for us. We did the farming as well a doing mechanic work for cousins at Hinton who have a large lumber yard business. I would repair their fork-lifts and trucks etc. in exchange for some building materials for our new house. We built our new house ourselves with some volunteer help from relatives for the framing, then we did the rest of ourselves except for the concrete work, brickwork and the cabinets. We are happy with our new home. We sold our former home to Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Harder. It was moved there by Mr. Dallaire of St. Paul.

We are very happy with our beef cattle-grain farm. Between Raymond Houle and I, we farm fourteen quarters of land, half of which is rented land. We all make a good living from our enterprise and hope that some day our children will be interested to live on our farm ready to continue the tradition.

### **Emilien Houle Family**

I was born and raised in Morinville. On October 27th, 1936, when I was 25, I married Lily Rivard, from Legal.



Emilien and Lily Houle, 45th wedding anniversary.

For twenty years I lived on the homestead that my Dad had taken up in 1891. He had a quarter section of land as well as another 80 acres. I lived in Morinville for forty-four years.

Lily and I raised six children, all of them being born in Morinville. Edward was the first to be born, followed by Armand, Pauline, Richard, Raymond and Simon.

We decided to move in 1956, so we bought a farm in the Pickardville district that was owned by Mr. Louis Lambert. He had three quarters and a half, and in 1960 we bought another half from Raymond Breault. In 1967 we expanded our operations still further by purchasing two more quarters from Omer Victoor, for our son Raymond.

In 1971 we sold our land to Edward, and we moved into Westlock.

Armand is now living in Drayton Valley, and Pauline, who is married to Maurice Regimbald, resides in Lethbridge.

Richard and Simone both live in Morinville.

### Raymond and Simone Houle

Raymond was born November 28, 1946. He lived in Morinville with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emilien Houle, until April, 1956, when the family moved to a farm in the Pickardville area. Raymond attended St. Bernadette School in Pickardville until 1964. He then completed his schooling at Vimy School, where he graduated in 1965.

It was there that Raymond met Simone Pelletier,



Raymond and Simone Houle family, 1980. Back: Raymond (Father) and Henry. Front: Simone, Daniel and Rachelle.

daughter of Henry and Yolande Pelletier of Vimy. Simone was born September 30, 1949. She received her schooling at Vimy School and graduated in 1967.

Raymond and Simone were married October 28, 1967, at Notre Dame des Victoires church in Vimy.

In the fall of 1966, Raymond had purchased a half section of land from Mr. Omer Victoor, the S½ — 10 — 59 — 27 — W4 situated in the Pickardville area. After their marriage, Raymond and Simone settled on this farm and still reside there today.

In 1979, Raymond purchased another quarter section of land. Along with his brother, Edourd, Raymond also leases several other quarter sections. Most years, the brothers have operated as many as fourteen quarters.

Raymond also works at the Pickardville Coal Mine during the winter months. Simone works part time at the Log House Delicatessen in Westlock.

Raymond and Simone have three children: Henry, born July 4, 1969; Rachelle, born January 26, 1972; Daniel, born May 10, 1977. All three attend St. Mary School in Westlock.

Presently, Raymond and Simone are building a new home, which they hope will be completed in the summer of 1984.



## Archie and Hazel Howie

by Hazel Howie

Archie Howie (Jr) was born in 1907 in Thessalon, Ontario. He, with his parents and one sister, came to Alberta about 1911. Three more sisters were born here. His father, Archie Howie (Sr) purchased land previously owned by the Rev. Douglas Telfer, which was located just north of Hazel Bluff Church. During the years, he worked for the railroad and had a contract to build the grade for the railway through Westlock. Later, he obtained timber permits and cut timber for the Chisholm saw mill. In September, 1915, Mrs. Howie lost her life when their home was destroyed by fire. In 1919 Mr. Howie married Miss Jean Gamble, and the family moved to the Lac La Nonne area.



Archie and Hazel Howie with son Allen and daughter Carol.

In 1935 Archie (Jr) married Hazel Allen and was the only one of the family to return to the Hazel Bluff district to live. They purchased Fred Allen's homestead and raised a family of three children. Allen, their only son, born in 1936, married Ethel Waltermath. They live in Hazel Bluff and have two daughters and two sons.

Carol was born in 1937 and married Ted Reitsma. They live at Dawson Creek, B.C. and have three children.

Patricia was born in 1940. She married Tommy Morland and they now reside in Summerland, B.C. and have two children.



Pat and Tommy Morland. 1958.



Carol and Ted Reitsma. 1956.



Allen and Ethel Howie. 1956.

Archie and Hazel have lived at Hazel Bluff for 47 years except for a period of five years from 1956 to 1961, when they owned and operated a general store at Dapp Corner, fifteen miles north of Westlock.

They have enjoyed taking part in all community activities and social functions. Archie served on the School Board, the Hall Board, was a director for the local Unifarm Organization, and acted as Sunday School Superintendent for a period. He was a church Trustee, a church Steward and a member of the session for several years. He is also a great horse and animal lover. Many people remember him by the nice horses he drove in his younger years.

Hazel was an Assistant-Leader of the local C.G.I.T. from 1947 to 1950. She also assisted with the local 4-H group when it was first formed at Hazel Bluff. She was treasurer for the Sunday School, took an active part in the Women of Unifarm Organization, and has enjoyed working with the U.C.W. for many years. Her hobby is working with plants and flowers, and doing needlework. After the three children were married, Hazel worked at a Drug Store in Westlock for fourteen years, beginning with the Pharmacist, Bob Edgar.

Archie and Hazel now enjoy their semi-retirement in their country home, with their family all quite near and a host of wonderful friends.



50th Wedding Anniversary of Archie and Hazel Howie. L to R: Archie, Hazel, Allen, Ethel, Patsy, Tommy, Carol, Ted.

These are brief recollections of the years 1911-1982. A time to look back and enjoy the things we experienced and learned during the severe depression, several years of prosperity and good times, and again facing difficult years of high interest rates and severe unemployment.

### **John and Ethel Howey Family** written by Margaret Anderson (Daughter)

John Howey was born in 1873, the eighth child of a family of ten children — three girls and seven boys.

John married Ethel Goldie Inglis in 1903. They lived in Owen Sound, Ontario and came west to Abbey, Saskatchewan. In 1918 they came to the Westlock district.

John worked for Frank Edgson on his farm. He also worked for George McTavish clearing land on the S. W. 4 — 60 — 27 W4th Meridian.

There were seven children born of this marriage, Sam, Margaret, Mary, Robert, Archie, Bertha and Ethel.

The children went to the Wabash, Edison and Westlock schools.

Sam worked for Mr. Albert (Bert) Bruder on his farm, breaking land around 1920 and moved to Neerlandia, Alberta in 1921.

Sam married Vivian Farnsworth, Margaret married Martin Anderson, Mary married Harlon Cox, Bertha married Bill Leivers and Ethel married George Midwenter. Robert and Archie did not marry.

John passed away in May 1943 and his wife, Ethel, in June, 1955.

Sam, Mary, Archie and Ethel also passed away.

### **The Howie Family** by Daughter, Ruth Roffey

Archie Howie came west from Thessalon, Ontario, with his wife, Bertha and their two children, Archie Jr. and Minnie.



They stayed for a time at Indian Head, Saskatchewan, where he worked for Mr. Dunlop. A third child, Ruth, was born there in June 1911.

In August, 1911, they came to Edison, Alberta to join Mrs. Howie's family, the Thomas Pollards, who had come west in 1909. They travelled as far as Morinville by train, then by covered wagon to Ernest Pollards's homestead, south and east of Clyde (NE¼-16-59-26-W4). Somehow, their belongings had been sent to Edson rather than Edison, and that was quite an inconvenience. They stayed with the Pollards for a short time, until Archie found work at the Duke of Sutherland's farm near Vimy.



Howie family: Minnie, Minnie Sr., Archie, Archie Sr.

They then moved to the Bob King place, SE¼-6-60-26, where the Westlock Industrial Park now is. At this time, he and Art Edgson took a contract to build the railroad grade through Westlock. This work was all done with horses; there were no big machines in those days. Another daughter, Margaret, was born here in June 1913.

Archie Howie then bought the Telford farm two miles north of Hazel Bluff (NW¼-9-60-27) where he farmed and worked in the lumber business. A fourth daughter, Bertha, was born here in June, 1915.

Mrs. Howie passed away two months later, after being badly burned as she saved her baby's life in a domestic fire. With the help of kind neighbors and friends, Mr. Howie managed to make a living and support his family.

Archie Jr, Minnie and Ruth attended the Wabash School for several years and later went to the Westlock School. In 1918, Archie married Jean Gamble. A son, Charles was born in 1919 in Westlock. That same year Archie bought a farm at Lake Nakamun, and later, Dunstable, and moved there, living there until 1944, when Mrs. Howie passed away and was laid to rest in the Sion cemetery.

Mr. Howie then retired to Westlock, where he and his brother Edward lived until his death in Febru-



Howie family: Dad, Archie, Margaret, Ruth, Charlie, Bertha, Minnie and Stepmother.

ary, 1953. He is laid to rest in Hazel Bluff cemetery beside his wife, Bertha. His son, Archie Jr. and his wife Hazel (Allan) still live on the farm south of Hazel Bluff.

Minnie (Mrs. Don Minty) lives in Prince George, B.C.

Ruth (Mrs. Stewart Roffey) lived on a farm east of Westlock until 1950, and now resides in Edmonton.

Charles and his wife Jean (McLeod) lived on the farm at Dunstable and later moved to Devon where Charles worked with Imperial Oil. He is now retired and they are living in Duncan, B.C.

Margaret and Bertha are both deceased.

## Joe Hudec by Grace Hudec

Joe Hudec came to the Pickardville area from Fox Valley, Saskatchewan, in 1933 and worked for various people. In the fall of 1937 he bought a quarter section of land, the SE (59-27-W4). Art Racine



Mr. and Mrs. Deshoux Sr., and Joe Hudec hauling lumber from sawmill in Flatbush in 1937, to Pickardville.

worked and seeded the land for a couple of years as Joe worked for him then, in the summertime, and worked at Deshoux's sawmill at Flatbush in the winter.

In November of 1940 he married me, Grace Lambert, and we worked hard together to build our "nest" and have a happy home.

Our first child, Cecilia, was born August 6, 1942. Next came Mary Anne who was born on September 17, 1943. She was followed by four sons: Norman on April 6, 1945; Andrew April 30, 1946; Albert, April 3, 1948 and Edmund who arrived on January 2, 1951. Doris, our last child, was born April 3, 1953.

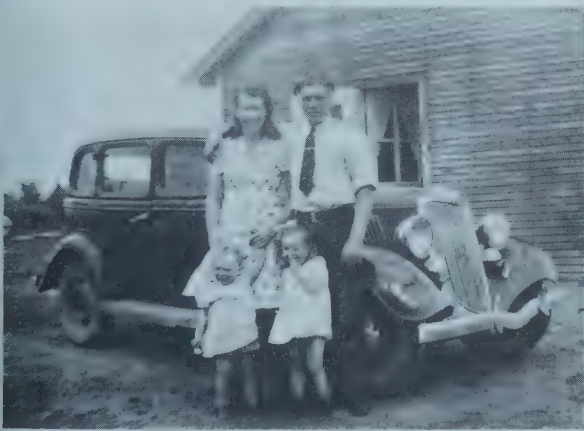
As the children grew up they helped us on the farm and we were able to make ends meet.

Now we are semi-retired, having quit active farming in June 1982, although Joe still does some farming with the boys help at haying and harvest time.

We enjoy our children and grandchildren, as well as our many friends, and we like playing cards and dancing. In wintertime we spend many pleasant afternoons at the Drop-in-Centre in Westlock, dinking or playing pool, and making new friends.

At present (1983) our daughter Cecilia is doing missionary work in Peru.

Mary Anne is married to John Bandzul and they farm at De Bolt, Alberta. They have a family of five children.



Grace and Joe Hudec, Cecelia and Mary Anne.

Norman married Betty Gendron. They live on an acreage in the Westlock area and he works at Greig's Printing. They also have five children.

Andrew married Lois Kerr and they are living on an acreage in Legal. He is a mechanic and welder. They have a family of four.

Albert passed away in 1969 after being involved in a car accident.

Edmund, who is an electrician, is married to Brenda Glebe, and they farm in the Dapp district. There are two children in their family.

Doris is married to Phil Remillard. She with her husband and one child, live in Grande Prairie, where Phil works on a dairy farm.

### **Hunt, Ernest and Jane** **submitted by Margory Baker**

Ernest Hunt was born in Wiltshire, England and came to Canada in 1905. Upon arriving in Edmonton he first worked at planting trees along the city streets. While working one day, Ed. Wilson a former school friend from England, came walking down the street, and told him of the homesteads available in the Pembina area. He decided to look for land too, and chose to homestead NW 22-Rge 27-Twp. 60-W4th in what was later known as the Sunny Bank District. While homesteading he lived on his land during the winter months and in summer he worked at surveying or building Telephone lines around the Wetaskiwin and Killam area. In October of 1910 he married Jane McCrae. She was born in Shauville, Quebec but had lived in Arnprior, Ontario before coming to Alberta in August of 1909. She came to her brother Jack McCrae who had homesteaded in the Sunniebend district. She worked at the Thomas Letts store and Post Office in Pembina and it was there Ernest and Jennie met. She travelled with Mr. Thomas Letts to Edmonton to meet Ernest in the Fall of 1910. There they were married on October 4th.



Ernest and Jennie Hunt with Phyllis, George, Margory, Alfred and Myrtle. Donald in centre.



They bought a team of horses, a wagon and a few household needs and returned to their homestead. Their journey took them three or four days. Ernest did not continue to work away from home during the summer months since he had to make improvements on his homestead. However he did haul the mail from Pembina Post Office to the Sunniebend Post Office which was in the Short residence during the years of 1913-1914.

They raised a family of six children.

George who was born in June 1911 finished school at Sunny Bank and then worked on farms during the depression years later branching out into the mechanical trade. He worked for Crone & Sons, Harvey Doherty and later for Edmonton Auto Parts in Edmonton. In 1941 he served in the Air Force as Sgt. Ft. Engineer from 1941-1945. After his discharge he returned to Edmonton Auto Parts for 18 months. He then moved back to Westlock to work with John Deere until he opened his own business, the Westlock Machine Shop, which he operated until his retirement. He married Alma Brock of Craik, Saskatchewan in February 1946. They had one daughter Barbara wife of Ray Bailey who lives in Lloydminster. Barbara taught school for several years and is the mother of two sons. Alma passed away in February 1974 and George married June McGinn in August 1976.

I, Margory, was born in August 1912 and took my schooling at Sunny Bank S.D. 2771. I joined the Air Force in January 1942 and went to Manning depot in Toronto for six weeks and then to Guelph College in

Ontario where I took a Cooking Course. After graduating, the class was posted to Hagersville, Ontario where I worked in the Sergeants mess on the station. After my discharge I returned to Westlock to open a Pastry Shop in 1946. I married William Baker in July 1949 and went to live on the farm in the Hazel Bluff area until we moved to Westlock in 1977. We were blessed with two children — Arthur who with his wife Kathleen, a nurse, lives on the Baker family farm. Marion who is married to Don Relf and lives at Rocky Mountain House. Marion is a Public Health Nurse. William Baker passed away in November 1978.

Myrtle was born in November 1913 and also attended Sunny Bank school. In 1945 she married William Uhrback who emigrated from Denmark in 1929. They farmed in the Sunny Bank area until their retirement to Westlock in 1973. They had two sons, Dale and Corvin who were educated in Westlock and at the University of Alberta. Dale is working as a field man in Agriculture at Pincher Creek where his wife Joyce is teaching school. Corvin is presently teaching school in the Lacombe district. His wife Alison is a physio-therapist. They have one son. William Uhrback passed away in 1981.

Phyllis was born in May 1916 and was also a student in Sunny Bank school. She married Jack MacLeod and resided in Edmonton. They had one son Kenneth who lives in Ft. McMurray. Phyllis worked in Woodward's China Department for many years. She passed away in 1972.

Alfred was born in May 1918 and was also a student in Sunny Bank school. He married Katherine MacLeod in 1939. He was a lover of horses and he farmed until 1958 when he began to work for the Department of Highways. Kate and Alfred had three children. Doreen, a mother of three children and teaches in Edmonton. Beth who has two sons worked at secretarial duties with the Royal Bank in Edmonton prior to her marriage to Tom McMorran. Gordon who has three sons lives with his wife Marie in the Pibroch area. He works for the Department of Highways.

The first five children in the Hunt family were born in the log cabin that was their parents' home on the homestead when they were married. One large room had been added to it. In 1919 they built a large, comfortable frame house.

Donald was born in March 1923. He went to school at Sunny Bank and spent his leisure time in trapping and hunting with a sling shot. His pockets were always full of little rocks for his sling shot. He avidly pursued this interest in hunting as an adult. He married Margaret Nelson, a teacher in 1947. Don worked as a carpenter in Edmonton until they moved



Ernest and Jennie Hunt, Nov. 9, 1957. Family gathering.

to a farm in the Barrhead area in 1951. He presently works for Alberta Hail and Crop as an insurance adjuster during the summer months. They had three children. Ernest is a machinist who trained in the Westlock Machine Shop under Uncle George's direction. He later purchased the shop from his Uncle. His wife Doreen, formerly Reidford, shares bookkeeping duties at the shop. They have a girl and a boy in their family. Faye is married to Harold Branden and a mother of three children. They live on a farm near Barrhead. Faye graduated in Business Management from N.A.I.T. and worked for an Edmonton Accounting firm before moving back to the Barrhead area. Ray is presently apprenticing for a welder at his brother's shop.

In March of 1920 two of Ernest Hunt's sisters came out from England to reside here. "Nel" Beakhouse came with her family and Lillian came also. Nel and Ted Beakhouse got a quarter of land through the Soldier's Settlement Board but they lived with the Hunt's while building on their land. Ted Beakhouse worked at the Westlock Witness — now the Westlock News — for many years. They had three children who were born in England. Irene, Mrs. Tracy Millar, Alfred who presently resided in Edmonton and Leslie now deceased. Philip was born in Canada in 1920 also deceased. The other sister, Lillian, made her home with her brother Ernest until the Fall of 1922 when she married Alfred Jorgenson. She now lives in Seattle near her son Stanley and his wife. She worked with both Dr. Henderson and Dr. Millar as a nurse. She went into the homes of the patients where she not only nursed but cooked meals and cared for the families as well.

Ernest and George, his son, also had a homestead in the Thorntonville district. Summer holidays for the family included days of picking blueberries.

During other seasons they fished and hunted for game. The family farm which had been extended in 1916 by the purchase of S.E. 28-Rge. 27-Twp. 50-W4th from Mr. Thomas was sold in the Fall of 1948. Ernest and Jennie retired to Westlock. Ernest passed away in April 1958. Jennie continued to live in her home until 1964 when she moved to Pembina Lodge and later to the Nursing Home. She passed away at the age of 95 in 1976.

They left many descendents in this area to recall their memories with pride and affection.

## **Hunter, James Edward and Margaret Elizabeth (Libby)**

**submitted by Betty Hunter Runyon (daughter)**

Jim Hunter was born in 1897 in Bradwardine, Manitoba. He received his schooling in Carnduff, Saskatchewan, then worked in his father's hardware

store there after graduating from business college in Brandon, Man. During the war, he enlisted in the 77th Battalion and served in France. Upon his return, he joined the firm of Ashdown Hardware in Winnipeg, and was later transferred to Edmonton.

In November, 1923, Jim Hunter and George Jamieson purchased the hardware business owned by Skinner and Pierce (Lot 13, Block 11) in Westlock. In April, 1926, they leased the west portion of the premises to Don Stanton for a General Merchant's store (monthly rent was \$35.00). For many years, the hardware store included a tinsmith shop in the back, where Jack McArthur was kept busy making furnaces, cisterns and eavestroughs.



Jimmy Hunter family. Jim, Betty and Libby May, 1946.

On August 6, 1924, Jim married Libby Phillips at her parent's home in Roland, Manitoba. Libby was a nursing graduate of the Winnipeg General Hospital. After a honeymoon in Banff, the happy couple took up residence in their new home in Westlock. The home was built by Alan Neilson, Contractor, on Lots 16, 17, Block 18. Their backdoor neighbors were George and Addie Jamieson; also recent newlyweds.

In 1928, Jim opened a Funeral Home and Ambulance Service, which was to make him well known



throughout a wide area. He never hesitated to go out in stormy weather or on bad roads, if he thought he was needed. His kindness is still remembered by many who knew him. Jim was on the Council of the Alberta Funeral Director's and Embalmers Association for many years, and served two terms as president.

When George Jamieson moved to Barrhead to open a hardware store there, Jim wrote to his old friend Harry Peter. Harry arrived from Rosetown, Saskatchewan, with his wife Marion and family, to work with Jim as his righthand man, in both the hardware and funeral business.

Jim was active in hockey during his early years in Westlock; later his interest turned to curling. He was a regular participant in the Edmonton bonspiel for many years; usually curling third for Walter Armstrong or Father Rooney. It was a tense time for us at home, as we listened with our ears glued to the radio for the latest draw results. We pulled for our favorites: Torri, Renaud, Dios Smith, Armstrong, Father Rooney, Stanton, Downing, Gilchrist, Ponting, and so on. One of Jim's proudest moments came when Billy Rose of Sedgewick, a Brier winner, phoned to ask him to curl third for him against the Scottish rinks, in their first visiting tour here in 1938. He gladly accepted!

Jim was active in community affairs. He served on the Westlock School Board for several years as trustee and chairman, along with Joe Renaud, Archie Brown and Walter Armstrong. He helped reorganize the Westlock Branch of the Canadian Legion, and served as first president. He was a respected brother of the Masonic Lodge.

Libby also did her share of community work, using her nurses training, especially in the early years, to help out those who were sick. She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Canadian Legion, the Nurses Chapter, and the United Church Ladies Aid (later the W.A.), where she was treasurer for 22 years. She was later honored with a Life Membership in this organization. She also belonged to the Ladies Book Club.

Libby was also an enthusiastic curler. Her most notable claim to fame was the year she curled third for Mrs. Gross, in the Edmonton Women's bonspiel. Lead and second were Wilma McIntosh and Mrs. Garf Boyd. Their team reached the finals of the Grand Challenge, but was defeated 11-8 by a city rink, despite the support from families and friends who drove into the city for the game.

I was my parents' only child, born in September, 1925. Growing-up years in Westlock bring back many pleasant memories. As it was a small town most people knew each other and felt a concern for all



Jim and Libby Hunter, June 30, 1949.

the young people. My school years were spent in the red brick school (except Grade 1, in the little brown school). I have a very warm feeling for the eight dedicated teachers who taught me, and also for the lovely teachers who boarded at our home, and who were like big sisters to me. School and church activities occupied my spare time, as well as playing in Miss Pritchard's orchestra, skating, badminton, curling, hikes to the Wabash, or picnics in Shutt's farm where there were great trees to climb (now they have been replaced by houses and businesses).

I recall the Christmas concert in the United Church basement, where excitement built up to fever pitch, as Santa's telegrams were read throughout the evening, and we knew he was getting closer. Then, at last, the rapping on the window as Santa came puffing in the door to be greeted by squealing children and beaming parents.

For many years, Fred Westgate would hitch up his team to the sleigh in the winter, then drive through town gathering the young people for their annual sleigh ride, until the air was filled with singing, laughter and sleigh bells.

With no television to entertain us and fewer sports facilities in those days, my memories of earlier

years include playing “dress-up”, and calling ourselves Jane Arden, Tillie the Toiler, or other characters from the “Funnies”. We made up plays and acted them out for an appreciative audience of mothers, and we also sent away for all the free samples in magazines, so that we could play “store”, and so on. I remember the excitement of going to C.G.I.T. camp at Lac la Nonne and meeting new friends and old from Barrhead, Manola and other close points. There are memories of the good young people’s parties at the McCulloughs, and the highschool dances, where most of the boys stood off in the corner until a “ladies’ choice” was called and they were dragged reluctantly to the dance floor. The Armistice Day dance and New Year’s dance were the big events of the year. The old U.F.A. hall took on a gala look as the ladies arrived in their long gowns, and I was thrilled when my parents allowed me to attend with them for the first time.

Our Grade XII class in 1943, was the first to hold a graduation banquet. It was held in the United Church basement, with parents attending, and a dance followed in the hall.

That fall, my friend Eileen Sumner and I went in training at the University Hospital. In May, 1946, we took part in the Convocation exercises at McDougall Church, along with our former schoolmates, Catherine Pierce, Mary Oestreich, David Bentley, Gordon Hollingshead, and our highschool teacher, Frank Edwards, who had gone back to University after serving in the Air Force. We were very proud of Catherine and David, who won the gold medals in their respective faculties.

In 1949, I was married to Maynard Runyon in the Westlock United Church. We settled in Edmonton and were blessed with five children. The oldest is Jim, who is married to a former Westlock girl, Jean Loree, daughter of Esther and Charlie Loree. The girls of our family are Beverly Soley, Valerie Runyon, Lauri Marshall and Kelly Thompson. My husband Maynard, who died in 1975, has missed the pleasure of being a grandparent to three dear little people; Michael and Steven Soley, and Nicole Marshall.

On August 12, 1953, the Westlock district was saddened by the sudden death of Jim Hunter at the age of 56 years. The Funeral business was purchased by Harry Peter, and Libby took over the management of the hardware store, with the help of Harold Holtan and Jack Fox. In 1960, she sold the business to Roger Cobban, and her home to John Wiersema, and moved to Edmonton to be closer to her grandchildren. She passed away in 1976; her memorial service was conducted by our friend, Rev. Wallace Moss.

I feel privileged to have had this opportunity to add my parents’ names to those of other pioneers who have contributed so much to the history of Westlock.

### Family of Alphonse Huot 1888-1981:

In August, 1914, Alphonse Huot, a carpenter, moved to Alberta from Quebec. A scarcity of work and lack of money in the East and a promise of greater opportunities in the West prompted him to make this move. Once the decision was made, Alphonse, his wife Amanda, and their two children, Wilfrid and Laurette, travelled by train from Quebec to Alberta. The week-long journey led them to Morinville where Alphonse rented a house for his family. Here he found that his carpentry skills were in demand, thus providing him with a source of income.

Alphonse and his wife Amanda were blessed with three more children: Leon, born January 16, 1915; Regina, born June 19, 1916; and Paul, born July 4, 1918. Each of the five children attended Boudreau School.



Claude Huot 25th wedding anniversary. 1954.

Then in 1923 Alphonse purchased the NE quarter of section 16, township 58, Range 25, West of the fourth meridian in the Boudreau District. (This quarter had previously been purchased by Wilfrid Proulx in 1906. Then in 1912 he had exchanged it with Oscar Modaire for the SE quarter of section 8, township 58, range 25, west of the fourth meridian. Oscar Modaire then sold it to M. Lamoureux, which brings us back to Alphonse’s purchase in 1923).

In 1936 Alphonse and Amanda moved in to the town of Vimy. Their second son, Leon, who married Lea Proulx (daughter of Wilfrid Proulx), on November 24, 1936 purchased the farm from his father. The four other children of Alphonse and Amanda are



presently residing as follows: Wilfrid in St. Albert, Laurette, Regina and Paul in Edmonton.

After purchasing NE 16-58-25 W4 from Alphonse, Leon and Lea commenced clearing the remaining 100 acres which would later be seeded in grain. From the sale of grain, butter, and cream, they managed to scrape together seventy-five dollars to purchase a second-hand Model-T Ford in 1938. Farming operations were carried out with the aid of six horses until they were exchanged for an 81 Massey tractor in 1947. Although life was happy, times were often hard as Leon and Lea raised their four children, two of whom are now residing in the Boudreau district: Hector on the SW 22-58-25 W4 which was previously owned by Joe Bilodeau, and Norman on the NW 15-58-25 W4 which was previously owned by Ben Gagne. At present, Leon and Lea are residing on their original quarter of land and actively participating in the operation of their farm.

## Huot's

by Claude Huot

The Huot family came from the Province of Quebec the summer of 1914 and settled in the community of Morinville. The family consisted of the parents Edouard and Marie and their six children, Alphonse the eldest was already married and had two children. Rose Anna (Mrs. Joseph Perras), Anna (Mrs. Thomas Belley) and three sons, Leger, Denis and Albert.

Late in the fall of 1918 Mr. Edouard Huot bought the N.W. quarter of section 14, a homestead in the Vimy area. The homestead had been previously owned by Mr. Arsenne Baert and Mr. Derosiers. Unfortunately Mr. Edouard Huot passed away January 30, 1919 just two months before the rest of the family settled on their newly acquired land. Mrs. Marie Huot being a true pioneer took on the task with her sons, of clearing land and establishing a mixed farming venture.

Mrs. Marie Huot passed away on May 3, 1932 at the age of sixty three years.

Mr. Denis Huot bought the homestead from his Mother in 1927 and there he lived and farmed for the next thirty years before retiring to St. Albert.

In 1929 Denis married Bernadette Tieulie from Legal and together they raised six children, all of whom are now married. Dora the eldest (Mrs. Fernand Dechamplain, a farmer in the Vimy district), Madeleine, (Mrs. Marcel Montpetit of St. Albert), Rolande (Mrs. Leonard Anthieren) of St. Albert, Rachelle (Mrs. Barry Ford, Toronto Ontario) and two sons Daniel of St. Albert and Claude of Morinville.

Mr. Denis Huot was very active in local activities,



At Pibroch. L to R: Laura Proulx, Phyllis Gurney, Lea Proulx, Celeste St. Jean.

but mostly in the country school of Boudreau. There he was a school trustee for many years, always giving a hand to help the teacher or in the administration of the school. In the early forties, due to the war, good teachers were getting harder to find. Mr. Huot realized that something should be done to better the education of the local children. So with the help of friends and neighbors he enrolled the school children of the Boudreau district in the Dunrobin (Vimy) school complete with a school bus in the summer and a horse drawn caboose in the winter.

His wife Bernadette, contributed also to pioneer life by boarding the school teachers during the school year. She was also involved in promoting bazaars for the church in Vimy.

Another aspect of pioneer life was the opportunity for the farmers to work on municipal roads in return for the payment of their land taxes. Mr. Denis Huot was prominent in organizing and being foreman of such work crews.

The adjoining pictures show local farmers helping each other cutting fire wood and the other one shows Mr. and Mrs. Denis Huot celebrating their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary with the family.

Mr. Denis Huot passed away in 1960 at the age of sixty-years leaving his wife who is still residing in St. Albert.

The homestead was then taken over by Claude, the eldest son. He married Irene Caouette from Legal in 1957 and together they raised five children. Claude is still actively farming the homestead, hoping some day that his sons will follow in their ancestors footsteps.

## Robert Janssens

Robert Janssens was born in Belgium in 1905. He came to Canada in 1923 and worked on a farm for Louie Dhoedt at Riviere Que Barre. He married Cecilia Borle in January, 1932 and moved to a farm near Alcomdale. They had two children: Firmin,

born in 1934, and Margaret in May, 1935. In 1938 they moved to a farm at Mossdale, west of Barrhead. In 1942 they moved again to a farm at Rossington and stayed there for four years. In 1946 Robert bought a farm, the NW ¼-2-60-1-W5, from Billy Staszski.

Riverdale School was the district school to which Firmin and Margaret went, in a cart and horse in summer, cutter and horse in winter.



Robert and Cecilia Janssens.

In 1941 Robert made a deal with the local banker at Barrhead to trade livestock for a tractor. He then had to ask for some spending money to go to Edmonton to pick up the tractor, and drive back to Mossdale.

They raised an adopted son, Albert, and two foster sons, Wayne and Alan Pasemko. Albert is married and is at Fort McPherson, N W T. Wayne is married and living in Calgary. They have three children: Tasha, Benji and Shawn. Alan is in Westlock and has three children: Allen and Jason (twins) and Shane.

Firmin is still on the farm. Margaret married Bill Glen in 1956 and has three sons: Robert, Gregory and John, and one daughter, Elaine.

Bill was in the armed forces for thirty years. He and his family have lived in many parts of the world; four years in Germany, eight years in Ontario and five years in Manitoba before coming back to Alberta. They are now on an acreage west of Westlock. Robert and Cecilia are now retired to Pembina Lodge, in Westlock.

## The George Jack Family by Myrtle Jack

George Jack came to Clyde at the age of five years. He was born at Walthamstow, England to Mr. and Mrs. William Jack and he emigrated with the family to Canada. George remembers the trip from Edmonton to Clyde in a cart pulled by a team of black horses on a muddy road.

As the oldest boy, he soon had responsibilities. Another early memory is having to stay awake all night at the new school when he was about eleven. He was told to keep the fire burning so that the plaster in the building would not freeze during construction. When William Jack left home in 1915 to serve in the Army during World War 1, it was George, as a teenager, who did the farm work while his dad was away.



George and Annie Jack at Clyde.

When his dad returned in 1919, George went to Edmonton. He worked in the boiler room of the McDonald Hotel, where he became interested in steam engines. He took a course to learn to operate a locomotive and worked for the C N R as a student apprentice. At Plenty, Saskatchewan he operated



farm steam engines for threshing machines and breaking plows. At Spurfield, Alberta, he worked for the Canyon Creek Lumber Company as a steam engineer.

In 1924 George married Annie Sampson, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Sampson of Spurfield and Clyde. George and Annie lived at Spurfield until 1931 when they returned to the Jack farm at Clyde. There they lived with their four children, Bob, Beatrice, Shirly and Bill.

George again was attracted by the lure of steam. In 1950 the family moved to Westlock and he became Chief Engineer for the Westlock Hospital, where he worked until he retired.



Ray Saisbury and George Jack harvesting on Saisbury farm.

Meanwhile, Annie Jack, having raised her family, decided that it was time to start a new interest. Since she already had experience in catering and in cooking at the Westlock Hospital, she enrolled at NAIT for a course in Commercial Cooking. From 1966 until 1980 she worked at various Alberta hospitals and also at oil rigs in Alberta and the far north.

In their retirement years, George and Annie are enjoying their Westlock home and the love and respect of their increased family circle. Their elder son, Bob, married Myrtle Baxter and had two children, Lawrence and Allison (Mrs. Joe Hannan). Lawrence married Berna Lopez and has three children, Lynn, Ruth and Spencer. Beatrice (Mrs. Bill Beach) had three children, Rick, George and Donna (Mrs. Gordon Kloepper). Shirley (Mrs. Ken Bibby) had three daughters; Karen (Mrs. Dennie Tomlinson), Colleen (Mrs. Jack St Arnaud) and Heather. Bill married Lorna Meir and has four children; Cheryl, Richard, and twins Nancy and Nicole.

### **The William Jack Family by Myrtle Jack**

William Henry Jack was born in Essex County in

England in 1877. He emigrated to Canada in 1906 with his wife and three small children. Their homestead was at Clyde, the NE quarter of Section 6.

In 1906 the trip from Edmonton to Clyde was not easy because the railroad had not yet been built and roads were poor. They travelled in a cart pulled by a team of two black horses. The road was so muddy that before reaching Clyde they had to dispose of some furniture they had brought from England.



Jack Family, Mrs. Wm. H. Jack, Alfred and Stanley.

On their homestead they found a log shack, but since there was no road and the ground was very wet, they did not live there for the first few years. Instead they lived in a house near the Clyde corner, close to the present junction of Highways 2 and 18. William freighted with horses and wagon from Edmonton to Rossington and from Morinville to Ft. Assiniboine. When they did move to the farm, they lived for a time on the west side before building on the east side in 1915. Made of hand hewn logs, their new home consisted of a large kitchen and living room downstairs, with three bedrooms upstairs and a cellar underneath. This house was of sturdy construction and it stood until destroyed by fire in 1983.

In 1915 William enlisted in the army. He served as a bandsman in the 49th Battalion, training first in

England before being sent to France. While he was overseas from 1916 to 1919, his wife had sole responsibility for the five children, Florence, George, John, Stanley and Alfred, plus responsibility for the farm. They were too far from Clyde for the children to attend that school, but by this time a school had been built in their own district.



Grandma Jack, 1925. George, Annie, Stan, Alfred and Flo.

William came through World War 1 safely and returned to the Clyde farm for a while, but he decided that farming and country life was not for him. He rented the farm and the family moved into Clyde, where he worked in the Post Office. He was Postmaster until his death in 1943. Mrs. Jack passed away in 1956.

## William J. Jack of Clyde by Kathleen MacLachlan

That W. J. Jack had been born within the sound of the Bow Bells was evident from his first greeting, "It's a fine die todie". What made a "green" Englishman and his family leave London to come to Western Canada? Perhaps it was curiosity, or perhaps the spirit of adventure. He filed on the NE¼-6-60-24-W4.

He and his wife, Alice, and children Florrie, George, John and Stanley arrived at their homestead in 1908.

During the early days, by trial and error, he learned the skills of survival in frontier country; everything from driving a team of horses to building a home. He was fortunate in having a Russian neighbor, Joe Jeselon, a skilled woodsman to design and construct his spacious squared log house. While ordinary log houses were common, the type with the hewn logs giving a flat exterior surface was rare and involved a lot more hand labour. The building, which

was the family home during all the years on the farm, still stands.

In World War I, William (Bill) Jack served overseas with the Canadian 49th Battalion Infantry. When it was discovered that he was a talented cornetist he became a member of the 49th Battalion Band, entertaining soldiers overseas, and after the war, travelling with the band on concert tours at home.

When the Saisburys retired from the Post Office, Bill Jack became Clyde Postmaster and held this position until his death in 1948. During his years in Clyde he served in many capacities. He was for a time, Secretary of the School District, he drove a school bus, he provided a small telephone switchboard which he and his family operated in a corner of the Post Office and he was a member of the local brass band which entertained at picnics and parades in the community.

Perhaps the most lasting contribution Bill made was his interest and promotion of the building of a war memorial in the centre of the Village of Clyde to commemorate the local boys who fell in World War I. Some of the funding and ceremonial details were taken over by the Ladies Auxiliary of the GWVA. The dedication by Capt. K. C. McLeod, and the unveiling by Major-General W. A. Griesbach, under the chairmanship of Rev. L. D. Bachelor, took place on October 18, 1934. Below the caption, "Their name liveth forever" are listed the four local boys who made the supreme sacrifice:

Private Carl Murray, September 12, 1916.

Private John G. McLean, September 26, 1916.

Private Robert Donald, August 25, 1917.

Private Gustav Carlson, October 4, 1918.

This memorial, built by Karl Kurstein, stood for some years in the middle of the main street. Unfortunately, when the village engineers tried to move it to make way for the sewage and water system, it fell over and was broken. Later, it was removed and re-erected on the local sports grounds where it still stands.

The Jacks, Bill and Alice, faithful adherents of the Anglican Church in Clyde, for years performed the arduous tasks of building the wood and coal fires to thaw out the building for its Sunday service, and also did the cleaning chores to preserve the spic and span interior. (This earliest church, built in 1911, lacking in present day congregation and funds, was sold to Allan Lazarus who uses it for a granary).

Mrs. Jack outlived her husband by several years. Of their family — Florrie Perry, her daughter and grandchildren, live in Ottawa; George and his wife, Annie, live in Westlock; John and his wife, Rae (Sterling) both passed away as young adults at Irma, leaving a daughter, Olive Sweeten, now living in Port



Alberni; Stanley, who worked for the E. C. D. for years, and his wife both passed away in Edmonton in 1982. The youngest member of the family, Fred Jack, is a well-known hardware merchant in Irma.

### **George and Annie Jenkins by their daughter Grace Hensch**

Dennis George Jenkins came to the Sunnibank district in 1923, and purchased the NE¼-24-60-1-W5. He was born near Birmingham, England and went to sea at an early age. He spent many years at sea with the Merchant Marine, going to Australia, Egypt and South America. When World War I broke out, he was in Australia, so he joined the Australian Army, but was discharged for medical reasons. Then he went back to sea once again, and on arrival in Canada he joined the Canadian Army. After the war, he was discharged in Canada and worked in several different places before he came to Westlock.

Annie was born in Sussex, England and worked for many years in Brighton as a dressmaker. She sold her business and came to Canada to keep house for her brothers, Will and Dick, about the same time that George arrived in the area.



Annie Jenkins and daughter Grace.

They were married on November 5, 1924, and settled on the farm George had bought. Neither had ever farmed, but with much hard work, they survived the tough times that followed. George loved his animals, especially the pigs he raised. They also had many turkeys and a large vegetable garden.

I was born in 1925, and I note in my Dad's diary that he also built the new barn that year.



George Jenkins.

Mother was one of the group that was responsible for the building of the Anglican Church in the Sunnibank area.

They enjoyed life at Sunnibank. Dad loved to be Santa Claus at the Christmas Concerts, and Mother enjoyed the quilting bees and other activities of the ladies of the Church. In 1945, because of ill health, they had to sell the farm and moved into Edmonton, but left their hearts at Sunny Bank. Annie passed away in 1953 and George in 1954. They are both buried in the Hazel Bluff cemetery.

I married Ed Hensch of Fawcett, and we moved to B.C. in 1954. We had two children, Ken and Jean. Ed passed away in 1974 and I still reside in Langley, British Columbia.

### **Charles and Martha (Bibby) Jessop-Baird by Dorothea Jessop-Baird (Mrs. K. I. Trowsdale)**

Charles Jessop-Baird came to Canada in 1898 at the age of 17. His mother Lydia (Burnham) Jessop-Baird traveled with him. Charles' father, William George Jessop-Baird had preceded them to Canada in 1897. He browsed around Ontario for a bit, finally purchasing a small parcel of land on St. Joseph's Island before sending for his wife and son.

Charles, who years later became my father, purchased land on St. Joseph's as well. However, during his Ontario years he concentrated mainly on the timber business.

My father's family came from County Athlone,

Ireland, but most of my father's boyhood had been spent in London, England. I never knew my grandfather. He died some time before I was born. He was an artist.

Had my father stayed in London he would have become an architect; he had just begun studies in this.

Why did they come? They were not alone. Many others of their background did the same. New horizons perhaps, the urge for an adventure before it was too late, or maybe the desire to just leave everything old and crowded behind and taste the space and freedom that others had told them of. Whatever the reason, they came as did thousands of others of every background and ethnic origin.

In 1917 my father moved out west. By chance, a year or two before, he had escorted a boxcar load of cattle west for a friend and as so many others had (and still do) he fell in love with Alberta at first sight. His parents, no longer young, traveled out later on a passenger train. My father, of course, had traveled with the stock and household effects in the boxcars. He bought a farm at Falun and settled down to enjoy the wide open spaces. His parents bought land nearby.

My father met my mother at a "social" in Wetaskiwin where she was teaching at the time. My mother-to-be, Martha Bibby, and her sister Mary had come to Alberta in 1914 from Leigh, England. Their father, a minister, was English, their mother, Irish, from County Cork, Ireland.

In July of 1919 Charles Jessop-Baird and Martha Bibby were married in Edmonton at the home of her sister Mary and husband. My mother continued to teach, and plans were already afoot for another move, this time to land just north of Edmonton. My parents had looked over the area on their honeymoon and liked the look of the country around that region.

By this time my grandfather's health had begun to fail. In 1920 he died. My grandmother sold their land and went back east to visit old friends. From there she traveled back to London and Ireland to visit friends of her former years.

My parents made the trek from Falun to Busby in June of 1921. Trek it was, at least for my mother. She was heavily pregnant and she told me she walked most of the time. Dad had rigged a tent on a hay wagon, and their belongings were stowed within it. Livestock were strung in a remuda behind the tent wagon. A couple of pigs and a few chickens were housed in "pens" slung under the wagon base.

My parents passed through Busby in the middle of a summer storm. At that time I suppose Busby was not much more than a wide place in the road. Mind you, even though I see the village has perked up the

last year or two, it's still not much more than a big crossroads!

After such a journey my parents were unable to get to their new farm. Below the hill was solid muskeg. They camped there that night, back-trekked the next morning and drove to their new home from the east through what is now Walter Fedorovich's place. In fact, our old farm, SE¼ Section 20, Township 57, Range 27, West of the 4th Meridian, is now owned by Mrs. Walter Fedorovich.

My mother told me many times of the sight which met her eyes as they first approached their land — tiger lilies, masses of them, waving in the July breeze. She said it was one of the most beautiful sights she had ever seen. There aren't many tiger lilies in the Busby area now, but I remember when I was a girl there were clumps of them everywhere during the early summer.

Their new "house" was one room with an attic. The floor was of packed earth, no screens at the windows, no much more than a shack. The previous owner had been a bachelor and unfortunately not a very good housekeeper. During those first few days while my parents attempted to make the place habitable, Mother said the only thing that kept her going were those masses of tiger lilies growing all round the shack.

The inside of that shack must have looked pretty strange with my father's precious organ (I still have it) and all those books of his and my mother's (I still have them also) jammed cheek to jowl with kitchen range, pots, pans, wood box, etc. However, my mother had visited in sod shanties on the prairie whose earth floor and walls had been hung with carpets brought from the old country, a grand piano lording it over all and the owners of the shanty changed for dinner and ate off fine china! No wonder Albertans are special! Look at our antecedents! They brought their old lives with them and made them new.

On a stormy July 21, my sister was born in that shack. My mother almost died, and my sister lived just ten days. She is buried in the old Advance graveyard.

My mother returned to teaching once she recovered her health. She taught at the old Dunstable school up until the time I was expected. During the week she stayed at the teacherage, driving back to the farm on a Friday evening returning to the school on Sunday night. In the spring and fall she drove a buggy, in the winter a cutter. Sounds easy, but ten miles in the dead of winter can be a damned cold trip in a cutter.

Gradually the shack grew to a house with a porch



around two sides. Dad purchased the quarter south of his. Things were looking up.

In 1929, as everyone knows, everything crashed. The dawn of the dirty 30's, depression, the prairies blowing away, desperate men riding the rails, farmers losing their homes. Dad managed to hang onto the home place, but he lost the other quarter.

I was born in 1930, another one of those "depression babies." I do not remember much of the depression. I do recall my mother selling eggs for 4 cents a dozen, and vaguely recall work gangs on the roads. In fact, my father did road work, always had. In fact the corduroy road buried somewhere under the road to our old farm was built mainly by him in the 1920's.

In 1932 my grandmother died. I don't remember her. She had returned to Canada some time in the mid 1920's and made her home with my parents until her death. My father took her back to Wetaskiwin to be buried with his father.

I remember the Social Credit picnic in Busby in 1935. My father won a Holstein calf on a raffle ticket. She was a great milker but a vicious kicker and a fence jumper. In the end the fool broke her neck jumping a fence when the ground was icy.

We had a car until about 1936. I have memories of going to church in Busby, a Sunday school picnic at Lac La Nonne where I tasted my first bottle of pop, and a Christmas concert in Busby on a very cold night. Dad got stuck once, and I remember him digging the old Star out and chugging onwards.

I attended Independence School. One room, hotter than Hades in the warm months, like a fridge until noon in the winter. But we had fun. Most of us were poorer than the proverbial church mice, but we had a wonderful teacher. I doubt whether anyone who attended Independence school while Miss Laura Taylor was teacher there has ever forgotten her.

In Miss Taylor's time there we held our Christmas concerts in Independence Hall. The work that went into the concerts. They were productions taking a couple of months to prepare but worth every minute of the time spent on them.

That was during the war years and I remember we collected foil and empty tooth paste tubes, and made up Kitty bags for the servicemen. Some of the local boys who went overseas never came back. They rest in foreign soil.

My mother still had a mother and three brothers in England then, and we used to send them food parcels. There was rationing here too, but on a farm one could manage to eat.

Farming was, and is, a gamble. Mother Nature has a way of jumping feet first on you when you least expect it. I remember hail storms that wiped out a beautiful crop, snow that came to stay in October,

burying unthreshed crops. Cows get blackleg, chickens contract some strange disorder and drop dead all over the place, bulls previously gentle suddenly gore their owners, as my father's did to him in July, 1939.

Dad had just got on his feet, profit wise, but after two months in the hospital most of the cattle had to be sold to pay the bills. An old story to a farmer, especially then, before Medicare.

One note of humor from that grim summer. There were cattle rustlers around that summer, and Mom and I (I was nine) were alone. One night a truck stopped just outside our gate very late. Probably it was rustlers. They had struck some farms around Busby. My mother and I were sleeping together, and she started to get up. The shot gun was loaded and ready. I have something wrong with the veins in my left arm, a birth injury, and during my growing years that arm would get stiff and the veins would swell. My mother's pointy elbow landed right on that arm full force as she levered herself out of bed and I let out a shriek of pain that was probably heard in Busby! The truck took off post haste. That remained a family joke, the night my shrieks scared the rustlers off!

I left school at fifteen as so many kids did then. Consolidation did not begin quite soon enough for a lot of us. A few of the kids I attended Independence school with left to finish their schooling somewhere else. Most of the people who are my age that I knew as a child still live around Busby. I would probably still be there myself if circumstances had worked out differently. Do I wish they had, I ask myself? In many ways, yes, I do. My roots went pretty deep there.

In 1946 my mother was very ill with anemia. I still remember unthinking acceptance of the men among our neighbours when they were asked if they would give blood transfusions to my mother. This was before blood banks were so well stocked. Possibly there was not even a blood bank in the Immaculata hospital then.

My father was ill in 1946 as well. That was a rough year. I have never forgotten the kindness of our neighbours to my mother and me while my Dad took his turn in the Westlock hospital. They got up a "bee" to cut us wood, hauled feed for us, but that's what places like this are all about. Neighbours.

In 1947, when I was seventeen, I married a new comer to the Busby district, Norman Thompson, one of several young war veterans who turned up in Busby about then looking for farms or garages or some way to make a new life after the war.

In 1949 Dad and Mom sold the farm to Burns Petrie. They bought an acreage on George Lake, SE¼ Section 20, Township 57, Range 1, West of the 5th Meridian. There they farmed on a small scale

with pigs, a couple of cows, chickens, a team, and Dad bought a car again.

I lived in a one-room cabin out in that neck of the woods for several years. The cabin was on the quarter directly east of my Dad's place, on the north side of the road. I believe one of the Scholes owns it now.

I left Busby with my children in 1954, my marriage having met its demise.

In 1962 Dad and Mom sold the lake place and moved to Bragg Creek, a lovely spot about thirty miles southwest of Calgary. I had been in Calgary for some time and had become an R.N.A.

Dad and Mom did not keep any stock on their Bragg Creek acreage other than a dog. They just grew a garden. They lived there about two years, I think. Dad was over eighty so finally they sold their last "country home" and bought a small house in Calgary. I knew Dad hated moving to the city. He went for walks, read a lot, watched hockey on TV and gardened, but it wasn't the same. Once he moved to the city he had to stop driving. He had always had poor eyesight, and city driving was out. So he sold his car and his gun collection and other things. Dad died in 1966 at the age of 85. The saga of Charles Jessop-Baird was over.

My mother stayed on in their little house until she was well into her eighties. Finally, living alone became too much. By this time I had managed to plug a couple of University degrees under my belt after taking high school in night classes, and was teaching. I had remarried and had only one child left at home, so Mom moved in with us.

In 1979, when she was 89, Mom broke her hip. She was never the same after that, just went slowly down hill. I cared for her at home with brief "guest stays" for her in the Bethany Care Centre so I could get a rest now and then. Mom died in November 1982 at the age of 92. Another saga ended; this time Martha (Bibby) Jessop-Baird.

I live in Edmonton now. My husband was transferred here in 1982. We spend some time, usually in summer, in a cabin belonging to people I knew as a child, Tim and Theresa Whitson. It's in a secluded spot on the Windy Hill road. I have done my best writing there, so I've been told.

I did not return to Busby until the spring of 1978. I was in Edmonton for the University Women's Club Writers' Group and on an impulse took the bus out to Westlock where my oldest school friend, Lillian Mitchell, lives. I suppose I had wanted to come home for years. I don't like cities any more than my Dad did. And my roots are still here.

I visited with old friends, found out about this cabin and have been "coming back" ever since to all the things I miss. The quiet, the trees, birds, coyotes

howling, wild roses, geese going over, so many things. This summer, 1983, I managed to plant a garden here, thanks to my old friends' understanding of how much I wanted one again. Life goes on, but I suppose what we are deep inside doesn't change.

Regarding my children — Norma married a new Canadian from Cologne, Germany. He owns a building and supplies company in Slave Lake, and they make their home there. They have four children.

Myles married a wheat farmer's daughter from Saskatchewan, whom he met in college. He has his own cartage company, and they live in Calgary. They have two children.

Heather married a lad from Manitoba. They live in Edmonton now where they recently purchased a home. They have two children.

David lives in Calgary at present. He is an equipment operator and not married yet.

Onwards Busby and district! Your day is not over yet.

## **Con Johnsons of Clyde**

### **Lena Johnson**

Conrad Johnson, one of a family of 9 children, was born in northern Sweden about 25 miles inland from the Gulf of Bothnia. In this mountainous area lumbering was the main industry. From the age of 10 to 14 he worked in saw mills in the summer time and went to school in winter. After leaving school, he worked for farmers at very low wages until he was 18.

Hearing from friends and relatives that wages were much better in America, he decided to join his sister who had immigrated to North Dakota a year earlier. He borrowed \$127.00 for his ticket from Goteborg to Hope, North Dakota. The three-week ocean voyage was rough and very unpleasant for the passengers who were plagued with seasickness. Having arrived at his destination, he obtained farm work and was able to pay back his loan. For the next three years, he worked on farms which paid from \$12 to \$35 a month wages. Some of his North Dakota friends, the Carlsons, had moved west to homestead in the Clyde area. He decided to follow them. When he arrived in Edmonton, he stayed at the old Oxford Rooming House for 50¢ a night, meals extra. He travelled on the C.N.R. to Morinville, and thence by Alex Marshall's mule coach to Clyde. The following is an account of his arrival in Clyde in his own words: "Clyde at that time consisted of a store, Post Office, and stopping house. Mrs. McGregor kept the stopping place and Mr. Nickerson the Post Office.

The store keeper was H. W. Nickerson, and the store was a general store and it was so general that he had everything in the store, or would get it, or it wasn't made! That was his slogan. But he did carry a



good line of goods, everything from salt pork, and salt herring in the barrel to mocassins and shoe packs, and hardware including barbed wire, nails, feed cookers, and curling irons for the ladies (before the days of Toni's). Then there were all the patent medicines from corn salves and pain killers to Bay Rum hair tonic. Indians and alcoholics used the latter for liquor). But he often extended much credit to his customers, for almost everybody arrived with very little money, and had to make or earn some before they could buy much."

Con was met in Clyde by the Carlson boys with their team of ponies who took him along a "trail" to their homestead 2½ miles east of the Village. For a time he stayed with the Carlsons for \$2.00 per week room and board in their comfortable log house.

Con's first winter, I went logging in John Zaczkowski's sawmill camp. A neighbor and I had a contract to skid and haul to the mill, and we had to board ourselves, baching in a 10' by 16' bunk shack, and we were to be paid in rough lumber, but because of poor management, bad luck and cold weather, we made only about 55¢ a day including board, which consisted mostly of pork and potatoes. We would take pork sandwiches out for dinner, and would have to thaw them over the fire outside, and melt snow for tea, and it all had a kind of smoky taste. After three weeks of very hard work, two badly frozen feet, and a burned up woollen sweater, I decided to quit. About three weeks later, I received my pay in rough lumber, to be hauled by me".

In the spring of 1911, Con filed on a homestead east of Clyde, near his friends, the Carlsons. As he had no equipment, he hired clearing to be done with oxen. The first crops were sown by broadcasting the seed by hand! Later he and 2 other neighbors together bought 4 sections of harrows, a 7' seed drill, and a 6' binder. Threshing was done by a portable hand fed thresher, horse-drawn which provided service for neighbors for miles around. The grain was all bagged and quite often sold or bartered to tie camps or sawmills. No wheat was grown in the area until 1914. There were no elevators until 1917 when the U.G.G. built their unit at Clyde. Con worked as a carpenter on this building and also on the ones at Legal and Athabasca.

Regarding entertainment of the period, Con said, "... In my Scandinavian settlement we would gather together from home to home, usually on Saturday evenings, play games, and sometimes dance. For lunch we would usually have sandwiches and molasses cake without frosting for it looked so much like chocolate cake. The Village dances usually lasted from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. The Taylor brothers were the fiddlers, and Art Edgson called the dances. When

they were well paid, they received \$5.00 a-piece. Anyone would hammer a bit on the piano, and sometimes receive \$2.00 for that".

Con acquired John Zaczkowski's sawmill, and in winter seasons he and Gerald Breadner, with Sid Jones as steam engineer operated this business for many years. He sold his homestead to Ed Round, and later bought one of the Duke of Sutherland's holdings on Highway 23 miles south of Clyde corner, and also the quarter on the opposite side of the Highway.

Always interested in community activities, Con planned and oversaw the construction of the Clyde Community Hall, contributing both loan capital and many days of his time to the project. It is interesting to note that all labor from laying of the foundation to painting the interior was donated by the community at large — most able-bodied members of a family giving at least two days of their time. Lena Winder, a Camrose girl of Swedish ancestry, had been highly recommended to Mrs. Nickerson who needed someone to assist in operating her large household, and in caring for her young family. Lena took the job at \$25 a month — considered good wages for the depression years. Her excellent cooking ability soon became known. Con Johnson, who up to this time had been an eligible bachelor, sampled her wares at the Nickerson table, and immediately decided to change his marital status. He and Lena were married in 1936, and for the next 26 years lived on the farm. In 1962 they sold the farm, and bought a home in Clyde where Lena still lives. Con died in 1968. Their older son, Kenneth, born in 1938, lives in Red Deer. Their second son, Norman, born in 1940, lives with his wife, Irene, and their three children in Edmonton where he is employed by the City.

### **Ernest Jerry Johnson story by daughter Loretta Sharun**

My father, Jerry, immigrated to Canada from Northamshire, England in 1912 at the age of nineteen. Arriving by way of cargo ship, he proceeded to Melfort, Saskatchewan where his brother Ted, was homesteading. Living there for a few years, he then drove a team of horses to Edson, Alberta where he obtained a job as a carpenter, helping to build the Hospital and R.C.M.P. barracks. While in Edson, he met and married Adell Deval, then along with his wife, moved to Calgary and found work in a dairy. A few years later, they moved to the Busby district where Dad worked for Bobbie Burns. Within three years he had saved enough money to purchase his own homestead, where Mom and Dad worked very hard clearing land. They had three children by this time, but had two of them die within one week. They lived on this farm until 1956, then moved to

Armstrong, British Columbia where he raised show cattle. Approximately fifteen years ago he retired and moved to Enderby, British Columbia where he and Mom are still residing.

My Dad, who will be ninety this February of 1984, and will celebrate his sixtieth wedding anniversary on December eleventh of 1983. Jerry and Adell had six daughter's; Florence Johnson, (who died at ten months), Lorraine Schulte of Edmonton, Loretta Sharun of Edmonton, Alberta, Lois Pek of Kamloops B.C., Joy Fredericks of Grande Cache, Alberta, Barbra Murry of Ardrosson, Alberta, and four sons; Jerry Johnson of Whitehorse, Yukon, George (who died at three years), Douglas of Westlock, Alberta, and Wayne of Rockyford, Alberta.

### **Ralph and Lila Johnson by Norman Johnson**

Ralph Johnson was born March 1, 1902, at Listowel, Ontario. In 1904 his family moved to British Columbia. He was raised on a farm at Armstrong, where he lived for some time, and also in the Ashcroft area in his early years. After working for some years on ranches in the area, he struck out on his own. The rest of his family remained in B.C., all their lives, but Ralph went to Saskatchewan, working on ranches and breaking horses in the Maple Creek district. As far as can be ascertained, he came to Alberta in 1923 and went on to a farm north-east of Busby.



Ralph and Lila Johnson on farm house porch.

Lila Johnson was born June 2, 1902, at Lacombe, Alberta. She moved with her family to Edmonton and then to their farm in the Vimy district. Her parents were Hugh and Anne Campbell. They farmed kitty-corner across the road from Charlie and Jen Holder's place, which, I believe, is now farmed by the Browns.

On October 27, 1926, Ralph and Lila were married, and settled on Ralph's farm. The district was at that time, called Echo Hill. In November of 1937 they

had a son, Norman. Due to back problems, Ralph had to give up farming, so on April 23, 1947, an auction sale was held and the Johnsons moved to Edmonton. The farm was sold to Vernon Seibert, who still lives on the same farm.

The Johnsons lived in Edmonton, where Ralph sold real estate, until December of 1951, when Ralph bought a general store at Entwistle, sixty miles west of Edmonton, where they went to live.

On July 1st, 1954, in the afternoon of this holiday, while Ralph and Lila were resting in the living quarters at the rear of the store, fire broke out, and the store and all the contents burned to the ground. Shortly after the fire, Ralph took sick and went to the hospital where it was discovered that he had cancer. After a short stay in hospital he passed away and was buried in September, 1954, in the Beechmont Cemetery in Edmonton.

Lila moved back to an apartment in Edmonton, where she lived until 1968. She was crossing the street one day and was run over by a car. After this accident she was unable to live alone so she moved to the Good Samaritan Nursing Home at Stony Plain, where she still resides.

Norman stayed in the Entwistle and Evansburg area. After he left school, in 1952, he worked in logging camps in Western Alberta and B.C. During 1953 and 1954 he worked for different companies, when the Drayton Valley oilfields started, and also took part in various rodeos for two or three years.

In 1955, Norm met and married Alma Hoffman



Norman Johnson, age 3, with dog Scotty. Lila in the background.



of Evansburg, and in 1956 they lived on Vancouver Island where Norm was logging. It was here that their first son, Ralph, was born. Later, they moved back to Entwistle where Norm took up carpentry work. In 1958, their second son, Glenn, was born. In 1959 the family moved to a ranch south of Entwistle, where they still live.

Their first son, Ralph, is married and has two sons, Jason and Brock. Ralph and his family live at Lloydminster, Alberta, where he is area foreman for an Oil Company.

Their second son, Glenn, is also married, and has a daughter, Sherry. Glenn and his family live in a second house which was built on the ranch where they live with Norm and Alma.

Norman and Glenn operate in partnership the "Rafter N Polled Hereford Ranch" a purebred Hereford undertaking. Glenn also works for the County of Parkland as a grader operator.

### **Ralph and Lila Johnson**

by "Bertie" Snyder

Ralph Johnson, nephew of Alex Lentz and Maggie McMillan, came to the Busby area in 1919. He worked for various farmers, and later bought a quarter of land, the NW¼-4-58-26-W4. In 1924 he married Lila Campbell of Vimy. They were very active in community affairs.

Lila was an active member of the Echo Hill Women's Institute.

They had one son, Norman, who is married, has two sons and farms near Evansburg.

Ralph sold his farm in 1946, and they moved into Edmonton, where Ralph did some real estate work for a while. He died in 1954 and is buried in Edmonton. Lila is living in the Stony Plain Nursing Home.

### **Johnson, Ron and Barbara**

Ron was born and raised in the Jarvie community and as a young man went to live with his grandparents in England. His grandfather owned and operated a "Funeral Parlour", thus giving Ron an introduction to the funeral business. Before returning to Edmonton, Ron married Barbara Shaw. Once back in Edmonton he apprenticed as a funeral director at Andrew's and McLaughlin's Funeral Chapel. Soon he was driving out to Westlock on weekends and holidays to help Harry Peters, who then owned Westlock Funeral Home.

In 1956, Ron and Barb and baby daughter, Christine, moved to Westlock and Ron was employed full time at the funeral home. Following Mr. Peters' death, he purchased the business in 1960.

During their stay in Westlock the Johnsons had two more children, Debbie and Graham. Ron and

Barb were both very active in service organizations in this district and both made generous personal contributions to many community projects.

In 1980, they sold the Funeral Home to Bob and Betty Jones and retired to Shuswap Lake Estates, Blind Bay, B.C.

To update the family, Christine (Dr. C. E. Sharek) is with the Baker Clinic in Edmonton and is married to Gordon W. Sharek. Debbie, now Mrs. Melvin McCallum, is a Travel Consultant with Security Travel in Vernon, B.C. and Graham has recently completed a Building Construction Technology Course at N A I T and at present is working in construction in the Shuswap Lake area.

### **Stuart J. Johnson**

I was born in London, England on January 25, 1898.

After service with the Imperials in France, 1916-1919, I came to Canada with my twin brother, Leslie, in 1920. In the spring of 1922 we came west, after working on farms near Stratford, Ontario. We homesteaded east of Jarvie, near Bear Creek School, which was known locally as Lake View Hall.

Most winters in the early twenties, Leslie and I worked in the bush camps, and one year worked in the mines at Anyox, B.C. This town, now deserted, was on the Portland Canal, near the Alaska border, and the town of Stewart.

In 1934 I married Elsie Garth whose parents had left Yorkshire in the early 1900's. After serving in the Canadian Army, Mr. Garth came to Jarvie in 1919, and the following year, with his wife and seven children, returned to settle near Lake View. With such a large family of school age children, he was instrumental in forming the Bear Creek School District, and for some years acted as Secretary to the Board.

Both Elsie and myself worked for the Lakeview Community Club, and yearly collected the funds for the Christmas Party at the School. When a Legion Branch was formed in the 1930's, I was one of the Charter Members.

On the outbreak of the World War II in 1939, I enlisted in 1940, and served with the Veteran's Guard of Canada at various prisoner of war camps in southern Alberta, in logging camps at Fawcett Lake and escorting P.O.W.'s to eastern Canada to work in the bush in northern Ontario. After escorting some P.O.W.'s back to Europe at the war's end I returned to farming.

We rented the farm in 1959, and moved to Wainwright with our three boys. Malcolm, our eldest son, had already left home and was living in B.C. I worked in the military camp and Elsie worked in the

Hospital. When we retired in 1973, we returned to our old stamping grounds, because my wife has two brothers living in Westlock.

Our second son, Louis, now lives in Birmingham, Alabama.

Brian lives in Sherwood Park, and our youngest boy, Barry, is in Edmonton. We have eight grandchildren, as all our boys have a son and daughter each.

Since coming to Westlock we have been active members of the Golden Age Club and participated in the Senior Summer Games in Camrose in 1982. I am a life member of the Westlock Branch, Royal Canadian Legion.

### **Fletcher and Lily Johnston**

The following account of Fletcher and Lily Johnston, pioneers in the Hazel Bluff district, has been compiled by their children and is as accurate as memory can recall.

Fletcher Johnston was born April 23, 1872 in Elgin, Ontario. He was one of eleven children of David Johnston and Sarah (Lampson) Johnston.

Fletcher's grandparents came from Ireland in the late 1700's. His grandfather was a Methodist Minister who fell in love with his parent's maid and they eloped to Canada.



Fletcher and Lily Johnston's wedding. March, 1899.

Lily Trotter was born August 1, 1876 in Harlem, Ontario, one of five children of Netterfield Trotter and Jemima (Mooney) Trotter. Her grandfather came from County Cavin, Ireland.

Fletcher and Lily were married on March 7, 1899 in Harlem, Ontario, County of Leeds, Township of Bastard, by Reverend Robertson.

Fletcher opened a blacksmith shop in Portland, Ontario and they had living space over the shop. Their first three children, Van, Estella and Nettie were born there.

Early in the Spring of 1908, Fletcher heard of homesteads in western Canada for \$10.00. He sold his shop and moved the family into a little bungalow in Portland. Evelyn was born there April, 1908. Fletcher left May 1, 1908 for Edmonton by train, leaving his family behind. He filed on a homestead two miles west and two miles south of Hazel Bluff Church, on S.W.¼, S26, T59, R1, west of the fifth meridian, where David and Shirley Cross live now. His brother Joshua Johnston had a livery stable in Edmonton. Fletcher worked with him and did the blacksmith work.

In the spring of 1909, he sent for the family and they lived in Edmonton for a year.

On February 25, 1910 the family started for the homestead with a team and sleigh. They arrived March 1st. A couple miles west of Westlock they had to change to a wagon, as the snow was gone, and they had to contend with mud.



Fletcher and Lily Johnston, September 1944.



They stayed with a neighbour, Dan Shell and his two sons, for a while. Mr. Shell, Charlie Jorgenson, and George Renton, helped Fletcher build a 16' x 16' shack. One room downstairs and one upstairs.

Fletcher got the family settled, and he left for Saskatchewan where he worked on the railroad until September, then returned home as Gladys Alberta was born September 21, 1910. There were two more children born there, Dick in 1914 and Marguerite in 1917. Mrs. Jorgenson attended Lil, when all three children arrived as there wasn't a doctor available.

In 1911, Fletcher went to Saskatchewan to work again and when he returned home he opened a blacksmith shop at Hazel Bluff. There was a general store there, owned by Egar Stanton, also a post office.

In 1913 Fletcher moved his shop to Westlock. It was located where the Immaculata Hospital is today. He worked there, driving a horse and cutter or buggy about eight miles each way. In 1916 he moved his shop to Rossington, east of the bridge.

In 1920 Fletcher relocated his shop to Westlock about where Lindahl's store is today.

In 1934 he sold his business to Ed Missal.

During these years, Fletcher proved up his homestead and worked very hard in the blacksmith shop, shoeing heavy horses, sharpening plough shares and setting tires on buggies and heavy wagons.

In 1920 Fletcher bought the half section west of the homestead. It was Dan Shell and his son's homesteads which Joshua Johnston had bought. Fletcher had a house nearly finished when it burned down. He had no insurance. He rebuilt as he had sold the homestead to Mr. and Mrs. Stevens from England and the two families were living together. There was a dance in the new house before we moved in, in the Spring of 1921.

Estella married in 1919, so the homestead was always her home.

In the Summer of 1921 a very tragic thing happened. Tommy Munn who lived in Eastberg district, murdered Sylvia MacDonald, age 17 and her brother, age 12. Tommy was well known and liked in the area, he had worked at our place and many other places. The people were all in shock. The schools were closed and people stayed home as much as possible. Police came from Edmonton and were billeted at different homes. There were two policemen at our place. Tommy's remains were found much later, he had shot himself.

In 1922 the last member of the family was born, Clem Iwilla, on November 27.

Those days men went from place to place looking for work. Fletcher hired a big Swede, Eric. He was a very good worker but quiet and rather sullen.



Johnston family about 1928. Back row: Estelle, Gladys, Dick, Nettie, Marguerete, Evelyn. Front row: Lily Johnston (Mother), Clem, Fletcher Johnston (Father).

Lil was in bed as Clem was just a few days old. Nettie was with her. Fletcher went to Edmonton on business intending to be gone a few days, but was worried about the family so came home the following afternoon.

Eric was acting very strange the day Fletcher went to Edmonton, so when the children came home from school and got supper, Nettie realized that Eric was really upset, so she sent Evelyn and Gladys to Harrison's about 1½ miles away. Reg and Marion Harrison and Manson Ralph came home with them.

Nettie, Reg, Marion and Manson sat up all night in the living room adjoining Eric's bedroom. He had a gun and they could hear him loading and unloading it. He came and opened the door and watched them several times, but wouldn't talk.

In the morning Eric did not go and do the chores and would not eat breakfast. When Fletcher came home and asked Eric for the gun, he gave it to him. Someone went and phoned the police and they arrived in the evening. Eric resisted the police, but was taken to hospital and died there a short while later. When the police opened his trunk, they found papers from mental institutions he had been in.

Mr. Shaver bought the farm in 1935. Fletcher and Lil moved to a farm four miles north of Hazel Bluff Church, for a year. Fletcher then took a job running Letts Ferry on the Pembina River. He worked there until the Fall of 1939, when he retired and had a house on the outskirts of Westlock. Fletcher became ill with leukemia and passed away in December 1948.

For Lily, it was a lonely life, having left her friends and relatives in the East. The first years she was alone with the children while Fletcher worked in Saskatchewan. Her closest neighbour was a widower, Dan Shell and his two sons, one-half mile away. Lil carried water from there the first years. Mrs. Jorgenson and Mrs. Ern Stanton were about two miles away.

The children had 3½ miles to walk to school, which was only open in the summer. The roads were so bad you could not even travel by horseback in the wet season. The farmers worked to put in corduroy roads and made it passable with a team and wagon.

Lil was very nervous and got the children in before sunset. She locked the door by putting a long board under the door knob and another board across the room. Many nights she never went to bed until daylight as she was afraid there were prowlers around. She usually kept Van, the eldest, up with her. She had to walk everywhere she went. The store and post office were 2½ miles. Mail came, once a week. She couldn't get to church and take the children and it worried her very much.

When Fletcher was on his way to work the first years, he ordered groceries sent back to the family.

The order would include, two cases tomatoes, one case sardines, 20 pounds soda biscuits, 24 pounds white beans, flour, sugar, tea and lard. We bought eggs, milk and butter from neighbours. There was plenty of berries to pick and partridge and prairie chicken to catch. We never lacked for plenty of wholesome food and warm clothing.

Although Lil was lonely, she loved her home at Hazel Bluff very much. She had to work very hard looking after a big family and usually had two men working the farm. Like most others she carried water and washed clothes on a wash board.

Lil went to Ontario to visit her family December 1913 and stayed until March 1914. She took Nettie, Evelyn and Gladys with her. This was her only trip back and none of her family ever came West.

Lil got diabetes in 1934 and with other health problems was not very well again. She passed away August 1949 and was laid to rest beside Fletcher in Westlock Cemetery.



Johnston family re-union in 1928 when descendants and their families numbered 100 persons. L to R: Clem, Marguerite, Dick, Gladys, Evelyn, Nettie, Estella, Van.

Gladys and Evelyn enjoyed C.G.I.T. groups and went to camp at Lac La Nonne in 1922 and 1923 with girls from Clyde, Westlock and Hazel Bluff.

The main entertainment in the early days was dances at different homes. All the family went and there were children sleeping in every nook and corner. Fletcher was always called on to step dance and sing. He taught us all to dance.

Gladys went to high school in Westlock. Grades 9, 10, and 11 were in the cottage. There was another building on the school grounds for grades 5 through 8



and the lower grades were in a building where the show hall is now.

Mr. Lynn was the principal and was a tough teacher and basketball coach. In 1925 we started school in the cottage and then moved into the brick school house.

Van moved to Saskatchewan, married a local girl and farmed there. He joined the army during the second world war. Later, he lived in Edmonton until the time of his death January 1977 at the age of 76.

Estella Sawyer, Nettie Williams, and Gladys Wood live in Edmonton, Evelyn Adkins is still in Westlock, Dick resides in Whitecourt, Marguerite Albrecht in Blue Ridge. Clem Townsend, the youngest, has lived in Arkansas, U.S.A. since 1943.

We all feel very fortunate to have had such loving parents, their home was always open to us and our friends at anytime.

We all think of Westlock and Hazel Bluff as home base and are very proud to have lived there.

### O. and S. Johnston

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Johnston came to Eastburg district from Eureka, California, to homestead in 1907 on the SW¼-8-59-1-W5. They had two boys, Lloyd and Charlie, and a daughter, Pearl.



Lloyd Skaalan, Bertha and Charlie Johnston. 1975.

They lost their home and most of the contents by fire just before Charlie was born in 1909. They stayed on and managed to build another log house.

Mr. Johnston was active in getting the Cotswold school established. He was on the school board for many years. He also served as councillor for several years. He and Jim Allen built the old log school at Manola.

Mrs. Sophia Johnston was very active in community affairs. Their names are mentioned several times in J. MacGregor's book "North West of Sixteen."

When Lloyd was twenty years old he went back to California and was married there, in Modesto, where he lived until his passing in 1976.

Pearl married George Rose of Eastburg. They farmed for several years and had one daughter. They later moved to Barrhead.



Stanley and Judith Johnston and daughters Shiloh and Sierra.

Charlie married Bertha Skaalen and they have stayed on the farm and made Eastburg their home. They have two sons, Donald and Stanley. Donald married Jean Frericks of Edmonton and they have three boys and three girls.

Stanley married a Calgary girl, Judith Kalbfleisch. They have two girls and live in Calgary.

Bertha and Charlie have retired, but are still living on the farm.



Don and Jean Johnston family, Oct. 1980. One daughter taking the picture.

## The Jolivette Story by Jeannette Boutin

The first generation of Jolivet known was Pierre Damien Jolivet who was born on January 24th. 1845 in St. Philippe Countie of La Prairie, Quebec. Pierre married Marie Malviua Lussier on February 4th. 1873 in St. Philippe. They had nine children, Maximillian, Malvina (Brosseau), Ernestine (Dumont), Hector, Victorine (Hebert), Albertine, Flore, Eric, and Gilles (Dr.). They all settled in the Quebec area except Maxamillian.

Maximillian was born in 1877 in St. Philippe, Quebec. Maximillian grew up on his father's farm and helped his father farm until 1903 when he moved to Alberta. It was at this time that the "te" was added to the Jolivet name. Since then the name has been spelt, "Jolivette" whereas all the Quebecian Jolivette's still spelt it "Jolivet".

When Maximillian came to Alberta he first worked for Grenier's in St. Albert doing farm work. He worked there for two years then went to work for the convent in St. Albert. Maximillian met his future bride while doing deliveries for the nuns at the General Hospital in Edmonton. Delcina Frigon was working there at the time, training to be a nurse's aide. She never did finish her training as she left and married Maximillian on June 10th. 1905 in St. Albert. Her training didn't go to waste though as later she became a mid-wife. Delcina was born on September 4th. 1889 in Three Rivers, Quebec. She was the daughter of Helaire Frigon and Delia Levesque of Turton, North Dakota then later from Edmonton. moved to an acreage near St. Albert and built themselves a house. The acreage was situated where once



Jule and Simone Jolivette on their wedding day.

stood a flour mill. Maxmillian and Delcina had three sons: Hermenegilde (Jule), born July 10th. 1907, **Ted Demien**, born January 4th. 1909, Alphege Romeo, born August 26. 1910 and their adopted daughter, Juliette, born February 10th. 1922. All the children were born in St. Albert and attended school there. As Maximillian was a very religious man, all the family attended the Catholic Church in St. Albert regularly. Jule can remember serving mass everyday and twice on Sunday. He is quoted to say, "I served mass until I was blue in the face".

At this time Maximillian did farm work for the convent and later became foreman. He worked for the convent for around fifteen years until he bought some land from the convent and went farming with the help of his three boys. At that time there were no tractors so all the field work was done with horses. The farm was located in St. Albert and today we now see this area each time we travel through St. Albert. It is located to the right of Highway 2 as you enter St. Albert from the North. Maximillian farmed just above the hill right to the bottom.

After Maximillian moved to the farm he also started freighting. He had two teams of horses that he used to freight up north with. He would haul freight up the Athabasca Trail to Athabasca then take the freight by boat from there to different points. Sometimes he'd go all the way up to Fort McMurray, Alberta. He would also haul freight up the Rivie're Qui Barre route to places like Slave Lake. He was



paid around \$100.00 a load and this would be a four or five day trip.

Maximillian farmed and freighted until 1923 when all the family except Jule moved to a farm near Pickardville. Jule stayed in St. Albert working at the convent where he had been working since the age of fourteen, helping with the farming operations. They were still farming with horses and raising most of their own food even then. Jule can remember doing the butchering each week. They used to butcher around two beef and ten pigs each week to feed all the people living in the convent. At that time the convent was run by Father Lacombe and they owned around ten sections of land. The convent then educated two or three hundred Indian children from surrounding reservations.



At Jolivette home. L to R: Jule, Julien, Simone, Ted, Juliette, Delia Frigon. Bottom: Maxamillian and Delcina Jolivette.

**Jule** moved to the farm in 1929 and at that time he was twenty-seven years old and owned his first car which was a 1927 MacLachlan Buick. The farm Maximillian rented was the same farm that Delcina's father, Helaire Frigon, had homesteaded. It had been sold by the Duframe's who had bought it from Helaire Frigon, to Joe Renault of Westlock. Maximillian had moved to this farm as he wanted more land for himself and his sons to farm. Maximillian took sick just two years after they moved to the farm and never really recovered fully from the illness. He was unable to work much and therefore Jule more or less took over the running of the farm. The illness was never identified, as medicine in those days wasn't very advanced and as a result it was never known what Maximillian had. Jule would still take him with him to help but he had to be watched constantly as he would have coughing attacks and would be unable to breathe.

In 1930 each member of the family acquired a title for a homestead in the Hondo area. Each year for a couple of months the family would all go there and clear off the trees. There were no roads to the homestead so to get there they had to travel through Athabasca along Lawrence Lake. They homesteaded the land for around five years which was during the hungry thirties. When things got better they let the homestead go. By that time they had broken around fifty acres of land.

It was also during this time that Alf. and Jule had their own band with Sam and Bill Schmode. They played at school dances, special celebrations, and at family dances in their area. Jule played the guitar, Alf., and Sam both played the violin and guitar, and Bill played the violin. They did this for around five years until they split up and all got married.

Jule met his future bride during one of these social gatherings in the community. Jule courted Simone Lefebvre every second week. He could only go every second week as that was when it was his turn to have the horse to go and visit his girl friend. Simone used to say that he would come down supposedly to see her but she would sometimes think that he only came to see her father as he would spend most of his time talking about farming to him and never said much to her. They must have got together though, without the father, for Jule and Simone were married on November 19th, 1934 in the Westlock St. Mary's Catholic Church by Monseigneur Rooney in a double ceremony with Alphege Jolivette and Louise Shafer. They had very little money and as a result were unable to have any kind of celebration. They were only able to go on a short honeymoon and this was a trip to Edmonton for a few days to stay with Jule's grandmother, Delia Frigon.

Simone Lefebvre was born October 30th, 1916 in Valleyfield, Quebec. She is the daughter of William Lefebvre and Bertha Leger of Westlock. Jule and Simone continued living and farming with Jule's parents and their first son, Julien William was born on November 15th, 1935 in Westlock.

In 1940 all the family moved to a farm located southeast of Westlock. The farm first belonged to Louis Lagasse who moved there with his family in 1909. At that time, people coming from mass in the church at the top of the hill tended to pause at the farm for a call on a summer day. Soon a game of ball would be organized and the neighbour boys would display their skill. As the years went by the diamond was improved until it was satisfactory for the kind of baseball played, though there was always a bit of searching for lost balls in the undergrowth if anyone hit a home run.

Eventually almost all the young folks of the

neighbourhood and some from quite far away would have spent a few Sunday afternoons at Lagasse's place. Their elders too would drop by for a visit and sit together under the trees, allegedly watching the game, mostly just visiting. The priest was often there especially Father Chartrand, who had the Edison mission at that time.

After the church was burned in the early twenties and Catholics as well as Protestants had to attend services in the villages, the social centre continued unaffected. Practised, was the old style hospitality as any and all were welcome at the table. Large family affairs and such parties were held in the granary where there was an excellent dance floor. Many of the Westlock Old-Timers will recall certain wedding celebrations and most of all the New Year's Eve affairs which were held in all the gaiety and merriment of the Old French Days.

The hill that over-looks the farm site is still to this day called "Protestant Hill", the highest point in the surrounding area.

All the Jolivette family moved to the farm except Alf. who had moved into Westlock. Maximillian was very ill at this time and in March of 1943 he died in the Westlock Hospital. There was a terrible storm at that time and a plow road had to be made to the farm. Simone can remember Delcina being very upset as they had plowed the road right through the barn yard and Maximillian had to be brought over it. As there were no funeral homes then the coffin was kept at the home until burial. Maximillian was buried in the Westlock Catholic Cemetary in Westlock. He is remembered by his son Jule as a very kind man. He was quiet and Jule never heard him swear much or very seldom get mad. He never said a harsh word against anyone and had a very easy going nature. He was a hard worker and was liked by everyone. Simone can remember him saying only one bad saying and that was, "Bullshit Bull Mud".

Jule and Simone had four more children, Claudette, born April 8th. 1944, Jeannette, born February 18th, 1946, Rosalie, born March 19th. 1948, and Clement, born February 10th. 1952.

Jule later bought the half section of land for \$3,000.00. At that time \$3,000.00 was alot of money but in two years Jule had the land paid for by raising and selling pigs and cattle. It was also during this time that Jule leased a half section of land from Gibson's. The land is now the site of Jonk's Tractor Co. Jule had a chance to buy this half section plus three more quarters of land for \$19.00 a acre. It was during the hard times and unfortunately Jule was unable to get enough money to buy the land.

Jule then leased a half section of land from the government. The land was school property and as a

result Jule was unable to homestead it. The rent for the land was paid by crop shares. Jule is still leasing the land to this day. When Jule leased this land he was still farming with horses. They had fourteen horses to do the farming until he purchased his first tractor which was a Fordson. It had wooden wheels and a coil box. He later purchased a 153 I.H.C. McCormick International. He plowed with a three bottom plow or two three bottom plows tied together.

Times were still hard and as a result Jule had to start working out to keep the farm going. The first job he got was for Rosair Pombert making shingles in a mill. In 1937 Jule built his own saw mill and went up to Fort Assiniboine and worked for Tom Walzinger. He hired three men to help him and at that time he paid them seventy-five cents an hour which was around five dollars per day.

One winter Jule had his mill on his leased land, which he called "The School Section", sawing trees from the land and sawing logs for other people in the area. It was during this time that he had an accident when a slab flew off the saw mill and hit him in the chest, puncturing his lung.

In 1940 he went to work as a mill wright for Hank Townsel. Jule was very mechanically inclined and as a result was put to work fixing broken machinery at the mill. Jule was paid one dollar and fifteen cents an hour with room and board and at that time that was a very excellent wage. Jule worked for Hank Townsel each winter for around thirty years.

Delcina continued living with Jule and Simone until 1951 when Jule bought her a house in Westlock just across from the Pembina Lodge. She by that time had lived with Jule and Simone for sixteen years. Delcina lived in her house until around 1970 when she was unable to take care of herself. She moved to the Westlock Auxiliary Hospital and lived there for five years, until her death in June of 1975. She was buried next to her husband Maximillian in the Westlock Catholic Cemetery. Delcina is remembered by her son as a hard worker and very head strong. She loved children and used to spoil them just as any grandmother likes doing.

Jule built a new house on the farm in 1951. His uncle Pete Frigon and cousin Lou Frigon helped build the house. Jule bought all the lumber for the house by selling a clover and rye crop. That year he had been lucky to have a bumper crop or they may not have got started on the house for some years to come. It was during the same year they built the house that an oil company dug a well on Jule's land and the proceeds from that also went into finishing the house. When they moved into the house they had no electricity, running water, central heating, sewage or gas.



These were acquired quite a few years later. Running water and sewage they didn't get until 1963.

Jule retired from farming in 1976 and he and his wife still live on the farm. His son's, Clement and Julien now farm the land. Jule still cannot get farming out of his blood as you can still see him every now and then helping in the fields or just going around inspecting.

The year 1984 will be a very important year for Jule and Simone for on November 19th they will be celebrating their "50 Anniversary". Again the farm will be a place of gaiety and merriement as the family and friends celebrates their anniversary just like they did years ago in the **Old French Days**.

**Ted Demien Jolivet** — Ted farmed with Jule until around 1940. He also would trap every winter in the Chisholm and Slave Lake area. Ted met his future wife in Pickardville where she worked as a waitress in the Pickardville Restaurant. Ted and Irene Rose Racine were married on March 7th. 1941 in St. Mary's Catholic Church. They lived on a farm near Westlock for a short time and Ted worked as a carpenter doing jobs in the surrounding area. That same year Ted was called into the army and was stationed in Watson Lake, Alberta for the duration of the war. In the army he also did carpenter work. After the war they moved to Edmonton and Ted went to work for Poole Construction. He worked for them until his retirement in 1974. Ted and Irene have three children: **Alice**, Ted's step daughter was born September 4th. 1936 in Pickardville. She married Joseph Wagner on April 14th. 1972. They have five children, Florence Borchuk from Alice's first marriage, Debbie, Edward, Kenneth, and Maura. Louis was born on September 5th. 1942 in Westlock. He married Mona Love on May 1, 1965 in Edmonton. They have three children, David, Anita, and Shawn and live in St. Albert where Louis works as a business manager. **Eugene** was born on June 6th. 1945. He is married and they live in Edmonton.

**Alphege Jolivet** — Alphege worked on the farm until around 1933. He moved to Westlock and got a job at John Smith's as a mechanic. He married a neighbour girl, Louise Shaffer on November 19th. 1934 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Westlock in a double ceremony with Jule and Simone. Louise was born on April 5th. 1914 in Delrenbus, Ohio. They lived in Westlock for a short time then they moved to Clyde where Alf. worked for Nelson Garage. In 1941 Alf. was also called into the army and was stationed in Vancouver, B.C. They had one son, Ted who was born in May of 1936. Louise and Ted moved to B.C. and after the war they settled in New Westminster, B.C. where Alf. worked as a mechanic until his death. He died of liver trouble on July 10th. 1955 and

is buried in the Field of Honor in the Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver, B.C. His wife, Louise his son Ted and Ted's family still live in B.C.

**Juliette (Lewis) Jolivet** — Juliette married John William (Jack) Lewis on July 14th. 1942 in the Catholic Church in Vimy. Jack was born on April 29th. 1923. They have eight children: **Phillip** was born on November 22nd. 1942 in Westlock. He married Diane Atkinson on July 23rd. 1966 in Burnaby, B.C. They live in Prince George, B.C. and have two sons, John and Christopher. **Gloria** was born in 1944 in Westlock. She married John Tymko and settled in Fawcett where John farms. They had four children, Michael, Brenda, Debbie and Steven who died on July 7th. 1977 in a farm accident. **Wayne** was born on August 3rd. 1948 in Westlock. He married Jeannette Marlene Sather. They had one child, Brent Wayne, who was born on May 22nd. 1977 in Calgary. He died of crib death on October 16th. 1978 and is buried in Calgary. Wayne also has one daughter from his first marriage, Juliette Jean. They now live near Whitehorse, Yukon. **Shirley Ann** was born on January 29th. 1952 in Westlock. She married Ronald Leo Schmaltz and they have three children, Trevor, Quintin and Carley. They live in Pickardville. **Linda Mae** was born on April 30th. 1953 in Westlock. They have three children, Cameron, Clayton and Jennifer and they live in Fort St. John, B.C. **Marlene** was born in March of 1955 in Westlock. She married Don Plumb and they live in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. **Kenneth** was born on August 1, 1957 in Westlock and is now living in Calgary. **Diane** was born on November 22nd. 1960 in Westlock and she also is living in Calgary. Jack Lewis has worked for the Town of Westlock as town foreman for over 35 years now.

**Julien Jolivet** — Julien attended school in Edison School and after quitting school went farming with his father. He married Evelyn Gagnon on July 21st. 1954 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Westlock. Evelyn was born on March 6th. 1934 in Westlock. She is the daughter of Fred and Helen Gagnon. They lived with Julien's parents for a few years then built their own house on the same farm. Julien later bought a farm three miles away and continued farming with his father then later with his brother Clement. Julien also started a small back-hoe business with his brother Clement called J.C. Holdings. Before moving to his farm the family moved to Fort McMurray for a few years where Julien worked as a back-hoe operator for Fort McMurray Crane Services.

Julien and Evelyn had five children: **Alfred** (Fredie) was born on February 1st. 1956 in Westlock. Fredie attended school in Westlock and graduated in 1973. He married Geraldine Brockman on November

27th. 1976 in the Jarvie Catholic Church. Geraldine was born on July 13th. 1958 in Westlock. She is the daughter of Antonisous and Regina Brockman of Jarvie. Alfred and Geraldine have three daughters, Janice, Laura and Dawn. They now live in Julien's old house and Freddie works in Edmonton for a dairy co. **Daniel Charles** was born on November 19th. 1959 in Westlock. Danny died in a car accident on March 9th. 1975 at the age of sixteen. He is buried in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetary in Westlock. **Darren** was born on January 27th. 1962 in Westlock. He graduated from the Westlock High School in 1980 and is now training to be a mechanic. He married Melanie Coyle on August 12th. 1983 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Westlock. Melanie was born in Scarbrough, Ontario, the daughter of Derik Coyle. They are now living in Westlock. **Duane** was born on September 6th. 1965 and **Lisa** was born on June 13th. 1968. Both were born in Westlock and both still live at home.

**Claudette (Graf) Jolivet** — Claudette attended school in Westlock until her marriage in 1960 to Emil Graf. They farmed with his father in Sunnibend area for seventeen years. They have three children: **Richard (Ricky)** was born on April 27th. 1963 in Westlock. Ricky graduated from the Westlock High School in 1981 and helps his father farm in the summer. In the winter he works in Fort McMurray where he works for a logging co. **Deanne** was born September 13th. 1964 in Westlock. She graduated from the Leduc High School in 1982 and is working in Dawson City. **Edwin (Eddy)** was born on March 2nd. 1966 in Westlock. He is still attending school and helping his father farm. After Claudette and Emil's divorce, Claudette moved to Leduc with her daughter where Claudette works for a machinery company as partman.

**Jeannette (Boutin) Jolivet** — I grew up on my father's farm which was located between Clyde and Westlock. I went to school in Westlock and graduation from the Westlock High School in 1965. I worked in Edmonton for one year at Alberta Blue Cross as a clerk-typist. I married Robert (Bob) Boutin on October 29th. 1966 in the Westlock United Church. Bob was born on September 25th. 1941 in Westlock. He is the son of Leo and Margaret Boutin of Dapp. We first lived in Fort McMurray where Bob worked as a crane operator. He worked at the Oil Sands Plant for five years then he and a partner started up a crane business which they called Fort McMurray Crane Services. During that time I worked in the bank for five years as accountant then later did the bookkeeping for the crane business.

In 1976 we moved back to a farm just three miles west of my parent's farm. Bob now farms and works

up north for Gulf Oil, working in the crane operations. I now do alot of charity work for the community and some bookkeeping at home. We have three boys; Blaine was born on August 10th. 1970 in Fort McMurray. Byron was born on August 22nd. 1973 in Fort McMurray and Barry who was born on July 3rd. 1976 in Westlock. All attended school in Clyde, Alberta. In 1982 on October 23rd. we had our marriage blessed in St. Patrick Catholic Church in Clyde.

**Rosalie (Moore) Jolivet** — Rosalie went to school in Westlock and graduated from the Westlock High School in 1967. She then worked for several years at the Westlock School Division. She married Leroy Moore on October 26th. 1968 in the Anglician Church in Westlock. Leroy was born on December 29th. 1943 in Westlock, one minute before his twin brother Richard. Leroy and Richard are the twin sons of Tom and Francis Moore of Dapp. They built a house on a acreage in the Dapp area and Leroy works as an iron worker. They have three children; Nicole, was born on February 17th. 1972. Trisa was born on August 28th. 1976 and Brett was born on May 3rd. 1979. All were born in Westlock and both girls attend school in Dapp.

**Clement Jolivet** — Clement went to school in Westlock and after quitting school went farming with his father and brother. He married Anna Lazarz on November 12th. 1982 in St. Patrick Catholic Church in Clyde by Father Viel. Anna is the daughter of Allan and Donna Lazarz of Clyde. Clement and Anna now live in a trailer which they bought and set on the site where once stood the church on "Protestant Hill". They are expecting their first child in September of 1983.

## Bob and Betty Jones

Bob Jones was born to Effie and Lloyd Jones of Clyde. He attended school there and upon completion of his high school education, he found employment at the University of Alberta Hospital. In 1969 he returned to live at Clyde and work in Westlock at the Westlock Funeral Home. He took his apprenticeship as a funeral director with Ron Johnson.

In 1971, Bob married Betty Anderson, a Registered Nursing Aid of the Crossfield area. They lived on a farm east and south of Westlock until 1980, when they purchased the Westlock Funeral Home and moved into town.

When his busy schedule permits, Bob takes an active part in many service organizations — Masons, Elks, Rotary, Westlock and District Agricultural Society and is on the Board of the Pembina Pastoral Charge for the United Church of Canada.

Betty is an active member of the Westlock Hospital Volunteers and the local Association of R.N.A.'s.





Bob Jones and family. L to R: Betty, Vicki, Bob, Jody, Tracy and Kari.

She works part time at the Immaculata Hospital as well as being a homemaker and an active member of the ambulance team.

For several years the Jones' provided a home for foster children and still remain active in the Foster Parents Association.

Bob and Betty have four lovely daughters: Jody, Vicki, Tracey and Kari.

## **The Owen Jones Family of Clyde** **Kathleen MacLachlan**

Owen Jones was brought up in a Yorkshire paint shop where his forefathers had been in the business for generations. With a desire to see more of the world he became a fireman and oiler on a boat for 4 years.

Alice Rose Carter, a relative of the Carter Seed firm in Surrey, England, had been raised as a "gentlewoman", and became a lady-in-waiting to Princess May of Tek who later became Queen Mary of England. After some time in this service, Alice looked pale and "run down". The Princess personally visited her, taking her wine to bolster her appetite. Later, she made arrangements for Alice to go to the South of England to recuperate in bracing seaside air. It was there that she met the sailor, Owen Jones. They were married in 1895, and lived for some time near Trafalgar Square. The two oldest boys, Sidney and Albert were born in England.

Later wanderlust prompted Owen and family to immigrate to Canada, sailing on the "Ionian" to Halifax, and thence across Canada in a colonial train to Edmonton, arriving with their clothes and \$30! They settled on the "flats" near Renfrew Park which at that time was used for soccer commonly called "Scotsman's Football". They lived in a modest small home which they rented for \$20 a month. Owen went



The Owen Jones family: Edna (Mrs. Gerald Breadner, Mabel (Mrs. Stuart Skinner), Mrs. Owen Jones. Seated, front: Frank Jones.

back to the trade he knew best, interior decorating and painting for which there was great demand.

Itchy feet prompted Jones in 1904 to file on a homestead. In 1905 he moved his wife and three children (Edna having been born in Edmonton) out to a log house on the homestead — half way between Clyde and Westlock, on the baseline. To earn ready cash, Owen spent half his time working at his trade in Edmonton, while Alice carried on farm chores with the help of the boys. The two younger children Frank and Mabel were born on the farm with their well-known neighbor, Mrs. Wright in attendance.

In World War I, Owen enlisted and went overseas with the 138th Battalion. The sons carried on farming operations. As a young lad, Sidney had a passion for engines, and used to go to Clyde every time the train passed through. He became a faithful friend of the engineer, George Marshall who permitted him to stoke an engine and learn much about how engines work. In appreciation, Sid would bring a bag of rabbits he had snared or a brace of ducks he had shot for Marshall to take home to augment the meat supply for his large family of 7 children. Sid's interest in mechanical and electrical machines has continued throughout his life. In 1918 he got a railroad job on the C. N. R. run from Munson to Drumheller, and later worked in the roundhouse in Winnipeg. Having

his “steam papers” he “fired” for Mr. Nyblood’s threshing outfit for three years in the Clyde area. He married Mildred Williams in 1924, and they farmed near Clyde for a number of years. He trucked freight as a side line. He later acquired a second-hand auto wreck parts and second-hand furniture business in Edmonton. With the help of his second wife, Lil, he reconditioned machines and household materials and sold them as a means of livelihood. Now retired, Sid lives in Edmonton, and his backyard is still graced by several used cars he is fondly refurbishing. His family of 2 sons and six daughters have found careers in various parts of the Dominion from British Columbia to Ontario.

Albert Jones became a successful farmer in the Clyde area, and one of the first to own and fly his own plane. Many young local people loved to have a ride with “Jonsey”. Three of Albert and Martha’s children, Dorothy became a Home Economist, Glenna District Agriculturist, and Ruby a nurse. Their second daughter Belinda Beauchamp passed away in her early twenties.

Of Edna and Gerald’s three children, Ken and Donna (Mrs. Miller) still lives in the Dapp and Westlock area. Edna, Mrs. Gerald Breadner, had the honor of receiving an Alberta gold medal and scroll commemorating Alberta’s 75th anniversary in 1980. Edna passed away in 1982.

Frank Jones, a popular painter and interior decorator, still lives in Clyde.

Mabel became a nurse, practising her profession for many years in the Edmonton area, and later married Stuart Skinner, a well-known pilot. They both live in retirement in B. C.

All the original Jones family got their schooling at the Edison School, having several teachers, beginning with Bert Putello and ending with Bob Montgomery.

After Owen and Alice Jones sold the farm, they took on caretaking of the Clyde Consolidated School in 1930, and moved into the Village. Owen passed away in 1933, and Alice in 1947(?). Both are interred in Dungannon Cemetery.

## **The Jorgenson Family** by R. D. (Bob) Jorgenson

The Jorgenson family moved from Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1908 and “squatted” on the north-west quarter of section 25, township 59, range 1, west of the fifth meridian, which is one mile west and one mile south of Hazel Bluff Church.

One of the happy memories that can be recalled, is the help that was given to the newcomers to build a house and barn from logs.

The heroines of those days were the older

women, of which my mother was one. The nearest doctor was in Morinville, some forty miles away, over a trail through the forest, so it became necessary for these women to act as midwives, and to nurse the sick, and to comfort those in times of sorrow. They gave of their time and experience in no uncertain way. The spirit of friendship in those early days was a blessing that has lingered on unto this day, for which we are most thankful.



R. D. Jorgenson family

We moved to Westlock in 1919 and were able to get jobs so that we could live and have a part in the development of the thriving town of Westlock.

There were, and are, many religious denominations in Westlock and District, and there still is a deep concern for the well-being of others. This is what has made the Westlock area such a wonderful place to live in. One of the cherished memories is the fellowship we enjoyed as we worshipped together on the Sabbath Day.

I worked for ten years in the George McTavish General Store. George was Westlock’s first Mayor. During this time I served one term on the Westlock Town Council.

I married Jennie Blake in 1926. Later we moved to Dapp where we operated a general store for fourteen years. During that time our daughter Audrey, was born and also our son Daryl.

I am indeed thankful for the task which was mine as I served the people of Westlock and the surrounding area, in the Alberta Legislature for twenty-three years, during which time I was Minister of Welfare for nine years. This is an experience I shall always cherish, for without the help of the people, I would not have been able to carry out and do the things I did for the betterment of our district.

Let us continue to do our best so that they who come after us will be inspired by the efforts of today.



## The Jorgensons of Hazel Bluff

by W. B. Jorgenson

The Jorgenson family settled on the NW¼-25-59-1-W5 in May of 1908, and like all other settlers here, they went through a few years of very memorable experiences, while getting adjusted to the pioneer life-style.

About 1911, our family used to watch with interest as we looked to the east and could see the smoke of the work train as they pushed the E.D. & B.C. railway north (endless ditches and big curves!). Now a close-by town was assured.



Bob Jorgenson and wife, Jennie.

Westlock was our town. In 1919 we left the homestead and moved to Westlock. My father Charles, and my mother Isabelle, spent the rest of their years in retirement there.

I am Bill Jorgenson, the second youngest of our family. A day never passes by now that I do not recall some of the long list of remembered persons.

My first work experience in Westlock was 1917-1918 when I was second man at the United Grain Growers elevator with Lorne Campbell. After that, my principal pursuit was grain-buying. In 1946, with my family, we moved to Nelson, B.C. and are still here.

My sisters, Clara and Mary, will be remembered from school days and when they were employed in the telephone office, post office and clerking in McTavish's store. They moved to Trail, B.C. in 1939 and later to Nelson. Mary still resides on the North Shore in Nelson.



R. D. Jorgenson at Pembina Lodge.

My sister, Jennie, became Mrs. George McTavish and they moved to Trail, then later, to a ranch on Kootenay Lake, where they spent the rest of their lives.

My brother, Stanley, did considerable construction work around Westlock. When he left, he was in the U.S. Marine Corps, business ventures in Los Angeles, then to Alaska doing defence work for fifteen years for the U.S. Government. He spent his retirement years with Clara and Mary in Nelson.

My brother, Alfred, was engaged mostly in motor mechanical work around Westlock. He married Lillian Hunt. About 1922 they moved to Spokane, Washington, where he was employed by the Great Northern Railway until his retirement. Then they moved to Seattle. His wife survived him and is still living there.

## Marian (Nelson) Kaliski

Marian finished high school in about 1944 and in January 1945 she set out for Toronto, Ontario to take a dress designing course. At first, working in the clothing industry and travelling to New York and other high fashion centres was very exciting. However, the glamour soon disappeared and Marian discovered it was not what she wanted to spend her life doing.

She left "Klever Klad" to go to University in 1949, graduating a few years later with her master's degree in psychology. She worked a number of years



Marion, Steve and Susan Kuliski.

with a mental health clinic in and around Belleville, Ontario.

In October, 1960, she married Dr. Stephen Kalliski, a professor of economics at Carlton College in Ottawa. About 1967 Stephen moved to Queen's University in Kingston, where they still live.

Marion works part time as a student counsellor and Steve in the economics department.

They have one daughter, Susan, now a student at Queen's.

### Gerald Kallal Family

Gerald married Lorraine Huot in 1959. They made their home on the Bidne farm, across the road from the old home place.

They are the parents of five children: Janet, Kim, Jacqueline, Mark and Michelle.

Janet was married this summer and is attending her last year at N A I T in the accounting program.

Kim is employed by the Bank of Nova Scotia in Westlock.

Jacqueline is presently attending the Alberta Vocational School in Lac La Biche.

Mark and Michelle are still at home and attending St. Mary School. Gerald is a district assistant with the I C G. (plains-Western) Ltd.

### The W. J. Kallal Sr. Family

by Theresa Kallal

The W. J. Kallal family came to the Westlock area in March of 1941, having bought the old Billy

McDonald farm, 1½ miles north of town, on the old Pibroch road. They enlarged the McDonald home somewhat to accommodate their family of four boys and four girls, plus a hired hand or two.

Amelia and Bill Kallal had come from Tofield to Westlock, and before that, had come to Canada from Illinois in 1926.

They purchased the old Lawrence Loree quarter in 1942.



Home place of William Kallal Sr.

The Kallals did well in the Westlock area and many farmers in the surrounding district will recall Bill Kallal buying and selling cattle over the years.

The Kallal children numbered eight:

Helen married Marvin Egleston, lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, and has two children, Elizabeth and Paul.

Rita Kallal lives in Calgary, but still cultivates her roots in Westlock.

W. J. Kallal Jr., who married Theresa Brault, has a family of five; Tim, Becky, Kathy, Dan and Joanne. They have made their home on the old Loree farm, one half mile south of the Kallal farmstead.

Mary, who is married to Sam Brault, teaches school in Wetaskiwin.

Evelyn, who married Marcel Dallaire, lives and nurses in Bonnyville, and has four children; Bernard, Caroline, Lisa and David.

Edwin married Helen Brown and lives on the "Homeplace" since purchasing the farm in 1975. Their family consists of Barbara, Terry, Shawn, Jeff and Allen.

Tom, who married Emiellene Blackburn, resides in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. They have four children; Linda, Greg, Brenda and Joan.

Gerald and his wife, Lorraine (Huot) have five children; Janet, Kim, Jackie, Mark and Michelle, and they reside across the road from his parent's old



residence on the former Bidne farm. These three Kallal brothers, Edwin, Bill and Gerald, live within a half mile of each other.

The beautiful stand of trees on each side of the road in this half mile were planted by Bill Sr. and the boys in the spring of 1952, and stand as a beautiful monument to a man who loved and appreciated the land.

Although Amelia and Bill Kallal spent their last few years in the Westlock Auxiliary Hospital, they always enjoyed coming out to the farm and were interested in the seasonal happenings. They also celebrated their 50th. Wedding Anniversary on the farm in 1973.

Bill Kallal always sat in the back pew in St. Mary's Church — he said it was to make a quick exit in case of fire, and also that he didn't want to block anyone's view. He may have had a good point for he was a man of great stature, standing 6' 4".

On occasion he used to pass on an old saying that was passed on from his father, "Live like you were going to die tomorrow, and plan like you were going to live for ever."

The Kallal's have been on this farm for more than forty years and you can be assured the Kallal name will be around for many more years to come.

### **The William J. Kallal, Jr. Family**

**by Theresa Kallal**

William Jr. and Theresa (Brault) Kallal were married in June, 1952 and have resided one mile north of Westlock on the old Pibroch road on what was known as "the old Loree farm" ever since.

We have five children who were born and raised here:

Tim is married to Angela (Savage) and they have



Bill and Theresa Kallal, 1982.



Bill and Theresa Kallal on their wedding day.

two children; Michael and Alison, and they live in Westlock.

Rebecca, who lives in Edmonton, will have completed her degree in Education by December, 1983.

Kathryn received her B.Sc. in Nursing in St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, N.S. and the University of Alberta, is presently working in White Rock, B.C.

Dan lives and works in Edmonton.

Joanne is taking Education at the University of Alberta.

Bill was instrumental in organizing St. Mary's School some twenty years ago, and has been Chairman of the School Board ever since. He had the distinctive honor of having the new school gymnasium named after him at the official opening in September, 1982.

Westlock is a great place to raise a family — and grow old!

## History of the J. Valentine Kelly Family submitted by: Mrs. Gladys Martel

On July 6, 1927 as new bride I moved to Carbon-dale, Alberta (near Namao) where Val my husband was born, to live with him and my new in-laws. March 31, 1931 was the date that Val, our two very young daughters, Olive and Joyce, and I arrived in the Vermillion Springs School District to settle on Section SE-7 and SW7, Township 56, Range 26, W4 (later purchasing NE7) which is 1½ miles East and 3½ miles South of Pickardville. The half section, SE7 and SW7 originally owned by a Mr. Witherall,



Gladys Martell's first home, and two daughters Joyce and Olive.

was sold in 1928 to Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Berg (Val's mother and step-father). Mrs. Berg operated the "Echo Hill" Toll Office, which was a telephone in their home where people came to have the operator make and receive long distance calls. The delivery of messages was made to the specified person in the surrounding district (often by horseback) by the family of the operator. Three years later Mrs. Berg sold the land to her son Val and moved to Stewartfield, Alberta. Val named and registered their new home place as the "Echo Hill Stock Farm". I, Gladys, continued to operate the toll office until it became obsolete when the local telephones were installed in the district. Until that time the nearest telephone was at least five miles away, in either direction, and they closed when the store did for the day; therefore emergency calls for the doctor, etc. were made from Echo Hill.

We were sure glad to have our own home and loved it even though it was only an old shack with three rooms and a leaky roof. It was four years later before we built a large house which I still live in. We were blessed with five more children; two girls, Norma and Valda, then at long last a son, Everitt, and



Gladys Martell's home as it is today.

finally two more girls, Patricia and a baby who died at birth. All our children attended the Vermillion Springs School. Olive married Walter Sydor, and lives in Edmonton. Also living in Edmonton is Joyce Buchanan, and Norma Tally. Norma is the only one to marry a local boy, Lloyd son of George and Nora Tally, our close neighbours. Valda resides in Red Deer. The only one of the childrn still living in the surrounding area is our youngest daughter, Patricia Dettman, now living at Jarvie, and working in West-lock in the Bank.



Home of Gladys Martell in which she is still living.

Val Kelly was a true **Volunteer** — was a school trustee on the Vermillion Springs School Board until his death (June/48); an executive and Floor Manager on the Pickardville Hall Board; coach of the Pickardville Ladies Softball team for a few years; an Executive on the Northern Alberta Oldtimers & Pioneers Assoc.; Pres. and Director on the Alberta Swine Breeders Assoc.; Director of the Swift Current Horse Processing Plant; an Exec. on the Edmonton Exhibition Board; plus being involved in many other things. He also owned the Pickardville Lighting Plant for a few years which supplied power to the Hamlet of Pickardville.



He was known for his beautiful big black purebred Percheron horses, saddle horses, and many purebred Yorkshire swine which he and his daughters showed at the Westlock Fair every year until his death; also at the Edmonton Exhibition, and the Spring Horse Show in Edmonton; also the Willingdon Fair with the Percheron Stallion. These animals were his pride and joy. Many ribbons and trophies were won in different events, which I still have.

Val passed away quite suddenly June 16, 1948 from leukemia, leaving me a widow with six children between the ages of 5-18 years. Five years later I married Alex Martel from Quebec, but we separated in 1967. I have been very active with the Vermillion Springs Garden Club, the Echo Hill Womens' Institute (now past Pres.). I am still living on the original home place (the land is rented) enjoying my garden and flowers, and plan to stay here as long as I can.

## **The Kinsellas and the Neilsons**

### **George H. Neilson**

Charlie and Mary Evelina Kinsella first came West from Ontario in 1905. Charlie worked at Walter's Mill in Walterdale flats in Edmonton, then later with his family found his way to Westlock where, I understand, he helped build the E.D. and B.C. Railway Station. In those days, the trip to Westlock by horse and wagon took five days by way of Riviere Que Barre.

In about 1913, Charlie was a sawyer in a sawmill at Mile 98 of the E.D. and B.C. Railway and his wife, Mary Evelina Kinsella, nee Wooden, was a camp cook. About that time, Frank W. Neilson, who had been born in Alemont, Ontario, found his way West after being drawn by tales told him by his father, George Henry Neilson, who had earlier worked in the Calgary district before returning to Ontario. Frank became a tie inspector and cash keeper for the Railway and when he arrived at the lumber camp, he met Mary Elizabeth Kinsella. In 1915, they were married, lived briefly in Edmonton, and then moved to their farm home, 1½ miles North of Hazel Bluff church. About that time Charlie and Evvie Kinsella had bought land in the same area. The Kinsellas had two other children, Wray, who was killed overseas in the First World War, and Ross, who settled near Manola. Charlie Kinsella died in about 1941 and his wife, Evvie, lived to a ripe age of about 85 and spent her last days in the Pembina Lodge in Westlock. Charlie was known to have built many of the large barns that still stand in the Westlock area, and was an accomplished millwright and carpenter.

In the meantime, Frank and Elizabeth Neilson

were acquiring land and children. Marion, Evelyn, Jean, Frances and George, were all born while they lived on the farm. All except George attended Riverdale School. John, the youngest, was born after the family had moved to Edmonton in 1934. In the meantime, Frank, who had become a Timber Inspector for the Federal Government, became Chief Timber Inspector for the Provincial Government when they took over the resources and for many years, he was home only on weekends from his work in Edmonton, while Elizabeth raised the family and ran the farm with the help of a hired man, one of whom was Bill Wesche. I recall that my mother, Elizabeth Neilson, ran the breaking plow and kept me, a 3 or 4 year old, amused by giving me handfulls of matches to try to burn the piles of roots in the field of what we called the North place located 2½ miles North of Hazel Bluff church.

Elizabeth was chosen by Harry Curlett to drive the lead tractor on the first shipment of International tractors to arrive in Westlock and which were driven in the form of a parade through Westlock and to the dealership.

Elizabeth was known as one of the top amateur horticulturists in the area and in the early years, had a showplace yard with fish pond, rock garden, many types of flowers and fruit trees, and 50 to 60 foot oak trees still stand in the rock garden area of the farm, which was later purchased by John Pudlowski.

After living in Edmonton from 1934 to 1946, Frank, Elizabeth and John, returned to Westlock where Frank operated the F. W. Neilson Insurance Agency and also operated a timber consulting business. Elizabeth Neilson opened the first flower shop in Westlock.

Frank and Elizabeth retired to Langley, B.C. Frank passed away in 1966 and Elizabeth in 1972, both aged 75.

In the meantime, Marion settled in Port Credit, Ontario, after marrying Albert Parsons. She has 5 children and 3 grandchildren.

Evelyn married Wilf Barbie and moved to Vancouver, Evelyn passed away at age 44, but is survived by 3 sons and 2 grandchildren.

Jean settled in Prince George, B.C., where she raised 2 daughters, and now lives with her husband, W. R. (Buzz) Walker, in White Rock, B.C., and she has 4 grandchildren.

Frances married Roger Vandervort, moved to Lansing, Michigan, where her daughter lives today. Frances returned to Westlock in 1947 and met an untimely death in a car accident at the age of 21.

George, an insurance adjuster, resides in Edmonton with his wife, Lillian, and has 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

John, a lawyer, also resides in Edmonton with his wife, Frances, and has 3 children.

It is believed that Frank Neilson installed in their farmhouse, the first wiring for electricity, but it was never used as electricity was never available during the time they lived on the farm.

Frances will be remembered by the congregation in Westlock United Church for the time that she played the organ in the church, and the chimes of the Westlock United Church were donated and dedicated in her memory.

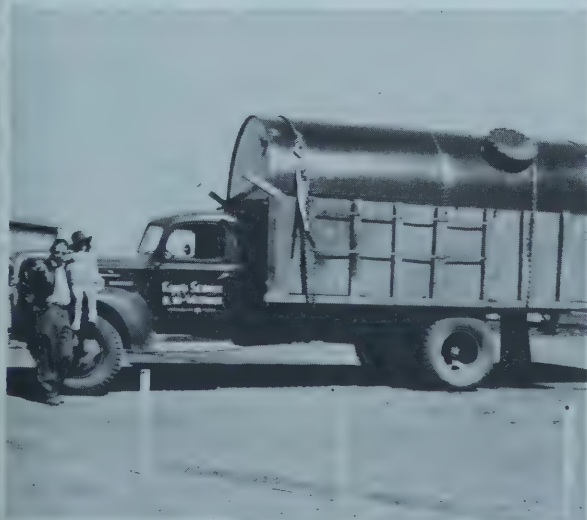
Elizabeth will be remembered as President of the Community League, for having brought the famous Mart Kenney's dance orchestra to Westlock.

## **The Herb Kipp Family** **by Sonia (Kipp) Buckmaster**

In 1911, Elmer Clarence Kipp journeyed from Michigan to join his brothers, Henry and Arthur, who a year earlier had settled in the Eastburg area. Elmer chose a quarter-section farm site adjoining his brother's, 3¾ miles south of what is now Highway #18. He took as his wife a young widow, Laura Lind, and on August 15, 1915, a son was born.

Herbert Lind Kipp was the first of five children, the rest girls. Herb's sisters are Thelma Mathews, Edmonton; Helen Lievers, Edmonton; Elsie (Anne) Dixon, Edmonton; and Shirley Peskow, Vancouver.

Having received his early education at Eastburg School, Herb found he was needed on the farm and so settled into a routine of helping his father till the land and take in the harvest. Although Herb's father never owned a tractor and most of the work was done with a trusty team of horses, mechanization would invade the farm each fall with the threshing crews.



Herb Kipp's 3-ton Ford truck used for general hauling, 1956.

Herb didn't have much interest in the farm however, and he came by his disinterest honestly. He remembers his father as being a good talker, especially, about politics, and he much preferred a hearty discussion up at the store to a rough furrow behind the plough.

The last straw came for Herb one spring when his father failed to break a piece of land that he and his sisters had spent the previous summer clearing. From time to time he worked out helping neighbors with haying, but it was almost a relief when war broke out and the Canadian Government called young men to serve in the armed forces.

Herb joined the army and served with the 36th Canadian Army Troops reaching the rank of Lance Corporal. While in the army, he received training as a mechanic and Herb says that it was then that he decided he wasn't going to be a farmer. He was posted overseas to England, Holland, France and Belgium. While in Brussels, Belgium, he met and courted a young member of the Belgium Resistance. On December 8, 1945 they were married in a civil service. Shortly after, Herb was discharged from the army and returned to Canada where he started to look for a location to build a service station and garage. In the spring of 1946 Herb's new wife, Georgette, followed her husband to a strange, new country. After a long boat ride and a seemingly endless train ride across the barren spring Canadian landscape, she arrived in Edmonton to be received by her new family.

Meanwhile, work was progressing on what would come to be known as "Kipp's Hiway Service". The location chosen was one mile east of the town of Westlock. The route for the Alaska Highway had been settled, but Herb foresaw a main artery to the north country and chose a site accordingly. Kipp's Service opened in the late fall of 1946. Herb recalls that time with mixed feelings. "I remember it was 30 degrees below zero when we put the pumps in."



Kipp's Highway Service, Westlock 1953.



There were two other garages in Westlock at the time, Doherty's and John Schmidt's Westlock Garage. Herb and Mickey (as Georgette came to be called) first sold Purity 99 gas, but in mid 1948 they signed with the British American Oil Company to sell gas under their franchise.

Between business and work, Herb and a couple of friends — Eddie McCormick and Charlie Herndon, decided Westlock should have some exciting entertainment. So in 1967 they got together, and with a lot of hard work plus many long hours, they built Westlock's first stock car track. Before long there were many thrills and spills by the numerous young fellows who joined the club and put on wonderful shows for all to enjoy. Herb had his own stock car which was No. 44. Eddie, an expert driver, chose to drive 44 and Herb worked as a pit man. On one such occasion young Eddie wasn't so lucky. Instead of winning the race and the checkered flag, he wound up on the roof with a silly grin. The Edmonton Journal called it "Kipp's Flipp."

In 1968, Herb received a plaque honoring his 20 years with that company. The arrangement survived Gulf Oil's takeover of British American Oil and lasted until Gulf bought out the service station in 1970 in order to build a big new service center.

Herb's first car had been a 1928 Hupmobile, but in 1952 he bought a modern vehicle, a 1951 Chev., in order to operate the taxi service he had purchased from Alan Weir. In addition, Herb and his wife had a trucking operation, hauling anything from coal to extra large loads of hay, one of which tangled with the High Level Bridge in Edmonton, tying up traffic for some time.

A cafe was added to the service station and Kipp's Service became a popular truck stop on the route to the North Country. As the oil industry expanded, tourist cabins and later a mobile home park were added to the business. Kipp's Service was open 364 days a year, but even on that one holiday it was many a Christmas dinner that went cold. Herb would open the pumps for one poor soul who was out of gas and soon there would be a long line-up.

Herb and Georgette have two children; Sonia, born October 1, 1951, and Daniel, born July 29, 1956. Sonia graduated from Westlock High School and attended S.A.I.T. in Calgary receiving an honors diploma in Journalism. There she met Ervin Buckmaster, also a Journalism graduate. They were married in Westlock in 1971 and now farm nearly 1000 acres of wheat land at Keeler, 40 miles N.W. of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. They have twin sons, Jarrod and Everett, born in Victoria, B.C. in 1979, and a daughter, Briana, born in Moose Jaw in 1981.

Daniel attended school in Westlock where he

excelled in athletics of all types and received numerous awards. After trying various job challenges, he joined a bridge crew with C.N. where he reached the position of relief foreman before leaving the company to try his hand at wood working. He is now a custom cabinet maker in Camrose, Alberta where he lives with his family. In 1979, he married Sharon Kjeersgaard of Edmonton. Their daughter, Karina, was born in Camrose in 1982.

Herbert and Georgette were divorced in 1974 and Georgette died in 1979 after a lengthy illness. In 1974 Herb married Irene Laughy of Grande Prairie. They live in Westlock where Herb, now retired, keeps busy with woodworking and Irene is involved with the Legion Auxiliary and hobbies.

## **The Norm Kitz Family**

**by Anita Kitz**

Norm and Anita Kitz moved to Westlock in 1972 from Edmonton, with 13-months old Shawna. In May, 1973, Shayne was born and in March 1978, came Sharla.

In 1973 Norm and Anita bought Bob Edgar's house, former owner of Edgar Drugs, now McKenzie Drugs.



Norm Kitz family.

The Kitz family have been active in the community since they moved here. Norm has sat on the Planning Commission Board for three years, was President of the Chamber of Commerce in 1979, the same year was Exalted Ruler of the Elks Club. Norm has been greatly involved with the Chamber of Commerce over the years, chairing Wacky Saturday, and has drawn up the Westlock Trade Dollar for the past five years. Norm joined the B P O Elks in 1973 and has been the Lodge secretary for the past three years.

Anita joined the Ladies of the Order of the Royal Purple in 1972, has been secretary for eight years, and is presently in her second term as Honored Royal Lady of the Lodge. She has also been on playschool and kindergarten executives over the years and was involved with the Westlock Ukrainian Dancers for three years.

The Kitz family consisting of Norm, Anita, Shawna, Shayne and Sharla enjoy the amenities of Westlock and plan their future here.

### **Matt Klassen Family**

**by Violet (Wilson) Klassen**

Matt Klassen arrived in Oyen, Alberta in 1911, from the Dakotas. His wife, Grace, and two children, Leonard and Thelma, who were born in the U.S., later joined him. He farmed there until 1933, when the grasshoppers and drought became so bad that the family was forced to look elsewhere.

Mickey, (as Leonard came to be known) left home with the cattle and drove them across the prairies to his cousin's place at Provost, where he wintered the cattle. His folks followed in the spring of 1934 and settled there for four years.

In 1936, Mickey married Violet Wilson of Calgary, and very soon was looking for another place to settle, as drought also hit the Provost area.

They left Provost at the end of March, 1938, in a severe blizzard and arrived at Pibroch on April 1st. in a dust storm — there was no snow!

His folks settled on the Charles Shaper farm near the Wabash Creek, and Mickey rented the second farm of Charlie Shaper's, which was four miles south of the other farm. His wife returned to work at Lake Louise while he farmed and built a one roomed house on skids, which was moved on to the Shaper farm. They were there for just under a month when Shapers' house burned to the ground. Neighbors rallied quickly to fight fire, but were unable to save the building.

While living there, we rented an acreage from Ernest Gamble, and cleared and broke the whole piece by hand and axe. Mr. Gamble finally introduced us to stump dynamite to clear out bigger trees. Gambles owned no car or truck, as he said "a car was

a luxury". Later, he did buy a car and his remark "a car is a necessity" always provoked laughter.

Charlie Parson's family was our nearest neighbour, and they proved to be real friends, as did Harry Hamblin and his wife. They would drive across the field with horses and stone-boat with some barrels to be filled with water, and would often remain to play cards.

Mickey's sister, Thelma (Dolly) arrived with her husband, Charles Fague, and farmed the Mac Plain farm until Charlie's mother passed away, then returned to Provost.

Mickey farmed the Roy Marshall place for a year, then he moved to Bill East's farm, south of Westlock. Bill sold the farm, so we moved to Westlock and farmed from there for several more years. In between times, Mickey worked at Missal's Blacksmith Shop and later helped drill water wells. Finally he settled in East Glen, on the east side of Highway 44, and worked for the Town until he retired. His wife worked at a cafe on the edge of town for twenty years, as cook.

While they were living in Oyen the Klassens had four more children born into the family. One son still resides on the farm four miles south of Westlock.

### **The August Kramps Sr. Family**

**by Irene Kramps**

August Kramps, Sr. came to the U.S.A. when he was 18 years old. He later moved to Canada and married Caroline Muller on February 17, 1903.

After living in different places and fourteen children later, the family moved to the Pickardville area in April, 1935. August Jr., Anne, Cecilia, Leonard, Charlotte and Raymond came with their parents. William joined them in 1936 and George in 1938. Mr. Kramps passed away in June, 1951 and Mrs. Kramps in January, 1973.

John married Nita Taylor of Crooked Creek, where he had taken up a homestead. John passed away in December, 1980. Nita still lives on the farm with son Gerald. They had eight children.

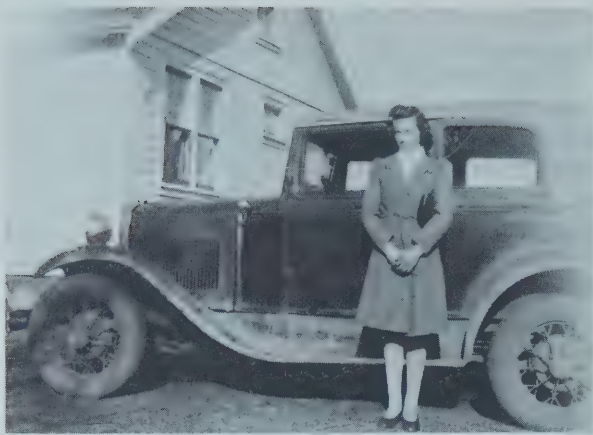
Elizabeth was their second child and passed away soon after birth.

Caroline was a great person, always willing to do what she could for her family. She had a call to join the Sisters of Providence of Halifax, so away she went. She ran the Rosary Hall in Edmonton also the St. Mary's Boys home. She is now Superior of St. Joseph's Day Care Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Anthony also homesteaded in the Crooked Creek area. Tony married Caroline Miller and raised seven children. They still live on the homestead.

Theresa married Henry Schlout and lived in Daysland, Alberta. Their six children live nearby.





Charlotte Kramps by old car.

William farmed in the Vimy area until 1978 when he sold his farm and moved to Westlock. He remained single.

Charlie remained at home and later married Lea Petrin. He bought his Dad's farm. He later sold out and moved to Edmonton to sell real estate.

Charlie was always the life of a party and still loves to dance. He and his wife have seven children.

August Jr. stayed home until his marriage to J. Irene Labelle in November, 1939. They have lived on a farm in the Pickardville area ever since and have raised eight children.

George joined the Army in 1943 and spent some time overseas. On his return he married Penny Mac Intyre of Westlock. He was a mechanic and worked in Westlock. After a while they moved to Edmonton, where they still live. They had six children.

Anne left home to work out, going to Skagway, Alaska, where she met and married Gus Lingle, Jr. Gus drives the train from Skagway to Whitehorse. They have three daughters.

Cecilia also left home, looking for greener pastures. She found her "Handsome Prince" named Paul Diemert, whom she married. They live in Fort Nelson, B.C. where Paul had a Gulf Bulk Station. They have a family of four.

Leonard wandered off to British Columbia to find work. He is a mill wright in a lumber mill in Prince George, where he now lives, having never married.

Raymond was born with a handicap so stayed home. After the death of his father he was sent to Red Deer as his mother was not able to care for him. He has since passed away.

Charlotte also loved helping people so she, too, joined the Sisters of Providence in 1951. She was stationed at Kingston, Ontario, and is now at Brockville. She has always been a lively person with such an impish giggle.

## The August L. Kramps Jr. Families

by J. Irene Kramps

August L. Kramps married Jeanne Irene Labelle November 21, 1939. The late Father P. Koolen performed the ceremony in Our Lady of Victories R.C. Church, Vimy, Alberta.

We lived for a while on the Ralph Drayton farm. Later we moved to a quarter section owned by Joe Bouchard. We lived there for 18 years renting from Joe. We then bought a half section in the Pickardville area from Angus Marshall in 1961.



Ralph Drayton's house under construction.

The four oldest of our eight children went to school in Vimy, Alberta. The four youngest went to school in Pickardville finishing in Westlock.

Gus, being an inventive sort of guy, didn't like stacking hay with a pitch fork. So, necessity being the mother of invention, he made a hay loader stacker. He also made a Bennett buggy among many other things. He was a good welder.

We still live on the farm. We run a sort of ranch and a "Do Drop Inn" for the convenience of our children. Togetherness has always been prevalent with our family as they always come home most every week-end. The big attraction in summer is horses, of course, and the three-wheeler and the three ski-doo's in winter.

George, eldest of eight children, worked as a trucker for Shell Bulk Oil for seven years. After the plant closed down he came back to help farm.

Ken is single and is a bartender at the Ambassador Hotel in Edmonton. He is a very generous person and an excellent waiter also.

James is married to Theresa Hopkins from Duffield. Jim teaches electronics at N.A.I.T. in Edmonton. Theresa works for A.G.T. and they have one daughter, Andrinne Nicole.

Karen married David Wright of Edmonton in 1971. They have a son, Anthony August. Dave is a foreman with the City of Edmonton. They live in Westlock.

Marilyn (Kramps) Alarie lives with us and has a daughter, Sharon Stacy. She is presently employed at Modern Livestock Auction at Clyde.

Linda married Steve Burgess of Edmonton. Steve works for Beaver Plastics and Linda for Inter Cheque. They live in Edmonton.



Ralph Drayton's house after completion.

Patricia is a single gal and works for the city of Edmonton Sanitation Department as a garbologist. In case you don't know what that is, it's a fancy word for garbage collector. She is the first lady ever to do so. Takes guts, you know.

Albert is unattached as yet. He is taking third semester in welding in Edmonton at N.A.I.T. He hopes to eventually have a business of his own.

### **The Carl Kreklau Family by Lottie Kreklau**

Carl Kreklau was born in 1913 in Stone, Saskatchewan. He came to Alberta in 1935 and farmed in the Fawcett and Jarvie area until 1946.

I, Lottie (Forbes), was born in 1921 in Edmonton and grew up and attended school in the Thorntonville district.

Carl and I were married in Edmonton in 1944 and then farmed at Cedar Creek in the Jarvie area. It was while there that our oldest son, Alvin, was born in 1945 in the Westlock Hospital.



Carl and Lottie Kreklau.

Carl and I both enjoyed farm life but when hail took most of our crop in 1946 we decided to move to Mercoal on the Coal Branch. This was an entirely new way of life for both of us as Carl was afternoon tippie boss at the coal mine. In 1951 our second son, Kenneth, was born in Cadomin Hospital. Alvin went



Alvin and Denise Kreklau.



to school in Mercoal until 1956. That year we bought a farm in Westlock and moved here, and then both boys went to Westlock school.

We always milked a few cows and had about 300 laying hens. In the last years we sold eggs here at the farm to neighbors, but soon we were getting more buyers from quite a distance away so by selling eggs to them we made lots of new friends.



Kenneth and Bev. Kreklau.

We have rented our farm out since 1980, so now we are enjoying our retirement on our farm with our flower garden and lawn.

Alvin married Denise Carle. They have two girls and live in Edmonton, where Alvin is operations manager for Grimshaw Trucking.

Kenneth married Bev Janzen and they have two boys and live in Edmonton. Ken is an oil lubricant salesman for Bardahl and supplies all the garages in the north part of Edmonton.

## **The Labby (L'Abbe) Family**

**by Clara Brown**

Telesphore L'Abbe — filed on the N.W. 12-58-26 W of 4th in 1903. He moved from the U.S.A. with his wife and family of five sons Joseph, George, Louis, Fred and John plus three daughters; Tilley (Mrs. Perrault), Mary (Mrs. Foote) and Annie (Mrs. Lutz). They all lived in the general area at some time. Mr. and Mrs. L'Abbe kept a store on the farm in the early days. After the first World War Telesphore and wife and son John moved to California because of John's health. The farm was sold to John L. Easton who had moved here from Dallas, Oregon, U.S.A.

John L'Abbe filed on N.W. 8-58-25 W of 4th in 1906. He married Miss Charest. Due to his poor health John moved to California but passed away in the 1920's.

Fred L'Abbe filed on S.W. 2-58-26 W of 4th in 1904. He married Delia Charest and raised a large family. They moved to another farm in the district and then to Lac La Biche.

Louis L'Abbe filed on the N.E. 12-58-26 W of 4th in 1904. He married Annie Charest and they had three daughters and one son. Edna, Alfreda, Delima and Jeremy. Another daughter died when very young. Louis was killed in a threshing accident in the fall of 1921. His widow later married Napoleon Demers of Legal.

Edna married Irvin Demers and lived on the home place for several years, then moved to Vancouver.

Alfreda married Arthur Morin and lives in Legal.

Jeremy married Yvette Desrosier, both are now deceased.

Annie, after being widowed a second time, married again; the fellow's name was Mr. St. Pierre. Both are in the Youville Home in St. Albert. Annie is now ninety four years old. This land was farmed for some time by Nelson Brown until it was purchased by Mike Karpluk who resided there with his family of two girls and one boy. The children attended Springfield school. This land was then bought by Phillippe Proulx and has been farmed by his son Rock ever since. This year, 1982, the old building site was purchased by a Mr. and Mrs. Langteau and a house was moved on the old site. A new name and a new neighbor in the district.

George L'Abbe filed on the S.W. 18-58-25 W of 4 in 1903. He married Adelia Lemire and raised six children; five girls and one boy. Dora married Henry Caouette and they live in Kelowna, B.C. Louise married Norman Henry and live in Surrey, B.C. Lily married Wilfred Bouchard and live in Cumberland, B.C. Therese married Real Auger and live in Legal.

Yvonne married W. Iseke and live in St. Albert. Donat, their only son lives in the district.

Along with farming George had a steam engine and threshing machine which was kept busy all fall doing his own crop and neighbours' crops in the district. In the winter the steam engine was taken to a sawmill to provide power to cut lumber. He retired to Legal in his later years and passed away in June 1959. George was predeceased by his wife Adelia.

Donat L'Abbe was born in January 14, 1918, the only son of George and Adelia L'Abbe. He got his schooling in the Springfield school. After farming with his dad for some time he bought the S.E. 12-58-26 W of 4 where he still farms. He married Delia Provencal and raised four children, three boys and one girl. Norman married Carole Ligrant and live in Edmonton with two boys. Loraina married Victor Garon. They live at Slave Lake and have one girl and three boys. Ernest married Maureen Dunningan. They live in St. Albert with three girls and two boys. Emile married Susan Bedard. They live at Slave Lake and have one boy.

Editor's Note: The family now spell their name Labby, an adaptation from the original French.

## J. U. L'Abbe

Mr. Joseph Ulderich L'Abbe was born in Alberta and in 1919 he bought a quarter-section 2 miles west of Vimy from Mrs. Loiseau. He married Doria LaChance on April 20, 1920 in Vimy, Alberta. Doria



Wedding of Ulderich L'Abbe and Doria LaChance — 1920.

was born in Quebec, P.Q. From this union there were born five daughters and one son. Hilda, the firstborn, died at birth. Yvette became Mrs. G. McConnell and is living in Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Georgette is living in Vancouver, B.C. with her husband Mr. D. Howie. Ida, the fourth daughter, married Mr. R. Hough and they reside in Maple Ridge, B.C.

Olive, who is now Mrs. J. Bengert lives in Red Deer, Alberta, and Robert is living in Kingston, Ontario. All five girls were born at Vimy, but Robert, their son, was born in Edmonton.

In 1945, the land was sold to Mr. Beaudoin and the family moved to Vancouver. Mr. L'Abbe worked for Turnbull Construction Company until his retirement in the late sixties. His wife, Doria, passed away in 1969. Joseph, who is now 87, still resides at his home in Vancouver, British Columbia.

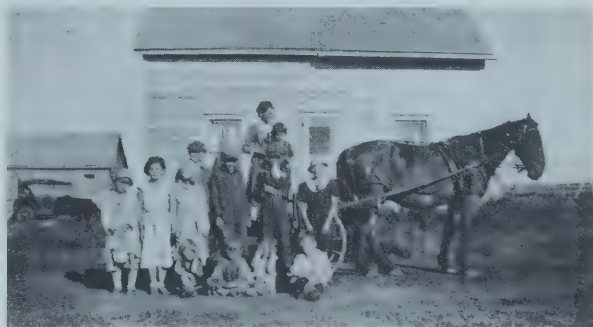
## The Paul Labelle Family

by Irene Kramps

Paul Labelle was looking for better farming land, so took his children from Gibbons, Alberta, to the Pickardville area. They arrived at their new home on a lovely spring day, March 17, 1931.

We came in our old Model T Ford car. I can remember it was really warm and the snow was melting.

We kids went to the old Elk Park school, half a



The Elk Park School gang in front of Paul Labelle's house. Irene Labelle driving horses.

mile from home. Those were the good times of our lives.

I, being the oldest, stayed home until I got married to August Kramps, Jr. on November 21, 1939. The Kramps farmed land just across the road from us, so we were real friends of the family and had many good times together.

Dad loved to play the violin, so the Riopels, Schmodes, Bouchards, Caouettes, etc., would come to the house and we would dance the night away.

Brother L. Rene went away to work in a lumber yard. Later he joined the Army and was there for two





Paul Labelle with his old McCormick tractor and dog "Billie".

years. He is married to Beatrice Tinling and now lives at Fort Saskatchewan. They have three daughters and a son.

Albert also joined the Army in 1943. He was stationed in Camrose where he passed away from pneumonia and scarlet fever. He was a fine guitarist, and he would keep us in stitches with his humor. He was only 19 at the time of his death.

Agnes, too, left for a brighter future. She went to Calgary to work, where she met a handsome chap from the Royal Air Force. They got married and shortly after, her husband, John Purssell was called back to England. Agnes joined him six months later with their wee son, Richard. Agnes still lives in England and had one daughter and son in England and a daughter in Toronto, Canada.

### **Trefle and Leonie Lachance** by Janette Lachance

Trefle Lachance was born in Cookshire, Quebec in 1874. He married Leonie Lessard in 1875 and together they raised a family of ten children.

In 1919 Trefle and his son Albert came out west two months prior to the family to build a home on his chosen piece of land in the Vimy district Sec. 23 R59



On the Trefle Lachance farm. Family and friends.

T25 W4. Leonie and the family came out by train along with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Breault who took up land in the Tawatinaw area. The dwelling was not nearly ready when they arrived so they took up residence temporarily in a sod shack belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Breault of Vimy. The mother told of how the shack was infested with garter snakes and recollects of one crawling near her baby's crib. Another frightening experience was when, after moving into the new house which was far from completion, a strong wind blew it six inches off its foundation. She and the girls were all crying with fear. Her oldest son Simeon, who had returned from the war, laughed and said "If you had been through what I went through, this wouldn't frighten you." One little girl was crying too, but her concern was for her pussy cat who was outside somewhere during the storm.

Simeon, the oldest son was born in 1896 and saw action in France during the First War. He enlisted with the Royal 22nd Regiment in 1916 and served two years until he was severely wounded in action and was hospitalized and returned to Canada. He received a military medal for bravery in the field. He died at the early age of 31 partly as a result of war experiences.

Albert, the second son had a farm at Vimy corner. This land was sold in 1943 to Vital Lachance. From 1939 — 1943 Albert delivered mail in the district and from 1943 — 1944 he delivered milk in the area. He died in 1945.

Vital who bought his farm, lived from 1908 until 1971.

Gerard born in 1913 farmed the land north of the



Trefle and Leonie Lachance, 1941.

Vimy road for many years. He married Gertie (Steffes) of Morinville.

Of the six daughters born to Trefle and Leonie, four are now deceased.

Armoza (Farley) lived in South Edmonton and died in 1971.

Drea (L'Abbe) moved to Vancouver in 1943 and died in 1969.

Oleda (Demers) moved to California and died in 1970.



Downed "Harvard (?)" that crashed on Lachance farm. 1943

Marie Ange (Tieulie) passed away in Legal in 1965.

Aurore (Dusseault) moved to Edmonton to live in 1970.

Flora (Seguin) moved to Westlock in 1975.

Trefle and Leonie bought a house in Vimy when they retired in 1941. Leonie passed away in 1945 and Trefle in 1951. They lived an active life raising their family and supporting themselves by farming. Trefle was very community minded and helped build the first church in Vimy. He also helped clear the road for the building of Highway #2.



The Trefle Lachance Family. L to R, back row: Vital Lachance, Marie Ange (Tieulie), Gerard Lachance, Flora (Seguin), Albert Lachance. Seated: Doria L'Abbe, Mr. Lachance, Mrs. Lachance, Armoza (Farley), Olida (Demers), Aurore (Dusseault).

## Jerome Lambert

Jerome Lambert along with his father Alexis came from Fitzburg, Mass. U.S.A. to file on a homestead on Section 12, Twp. 59, R. 1W. of 5th Meridian, 1½ miles north of the Racine School in the year 1911.



Jerome Lambert, first home.

The only dwelling was a log shack which was to be the home of 3 adults and two children: Ferdinand about 9, and Annie later Mrs. Fred Girard age 7. When they filed on the place it was winter, little did they know that every spring the Wabash would spread ½ mile well over the road and the only way to get across was by boat. This was the drawback for all the years the Mr. and Mrs. Lambert lived on the farm till they retired in Pickardville in 1944. Mrs. Lambert passed away in 1947, and Mr. Lambert passed away less than a year later.

Three other children were born on the homestead: Louis in 1915. He married Florence Nadeau in 1941. They raised three children: Denise, Denis and Emile. Louis passed away in 1971.

Grace was born in 1917, married Joe Hudec in



1940. Joe had bought a farm from Albert Cloutier, one mile west of her folks. They raised seven children: Cecilia, now with the Sisters of Clarite in Peru; Mary Ann in Debolt, Doris in B.C. Andy in Legal, Albert passed away in 1969, Edmond is in Jarvie, and Normand in Westlock.

Wilfred was born in 1918, married Delima Meloche in 1940. They had 10 children. Wilfred passed away in 1981.

## **Harry Lane and Family by Harry Lane**

I was born June 19, 1923 on my folk's homestead at Tawatinaw,, Alberta. My birth came after my mother finished milking her 5 cows the morning of the 19th and Mrs. Burchett Sr., was the mid-wife.

I was 2 years old when my folks moved to Westlock on NW9-60-26-W4 which is 1½ miles north of Westlock on what is known as Highway #44.

I took all my schooling in Westlock and by the time I was in Senior High, World War II was in full swing. I, being like most of the young fellows could hardly wait to get in the service and I remember Lorne Boyd and I tried to join the Army Dental Corp. When they found out our age was only 17, they told us to go home and grow up. So as soon as I hit 18, I joined the R.C.N. Before that, I hadn't been very far from home — as far south as Pigoen Lake, north as far as Chisholm so you can imagine how my eyes opened when I found myself with a group of men — all ages and with all sorts of experiences (some I hadn't heard of before) and also with a commander that called us fancy names I hadn't heard before.

I served on the North Atlantic convoy ships during World War II. I was home on leave prior to Pacific duty when Japan surrendered. The Navy sent me a collect telegram to report back to Newfoundland for my discharge. This cost me nearly two days pay so actually the Federal Government hasn't changed a heck of a lot.

While home on Pacific leave I met Vi Hess from Clyde. We were married the following year and decided to take up homesteading. We settled on NW¼429-60-26-W4 and I became a "root jockey", under the Veterans Land Act. Clearing raw land required a strong back and a weak head. I sorta qualified — survival was rough but we made it!!!

I took up Electronics at the age of 43 and was shocked to find out how many "cob-webs" had accumulated since I had left school. But with a fascination for science, I managed to graduate. I worked a few years at Electronics in Westlock but also love carpentry so the latter years I have been building a few homes plus cupboards, etc.

We have a daughter — Beverly Drake who has

her degree in education and teaches at Devon. We get so much enjoyment from their two sons, Shane and Chris.

We also have a son, Ronald who has his degree in Agriculture and was a Swine Specialist with the Alberta Government. He married Barb Jones and they have blessed us with two grandchildren — a daughter called Alexia and a son called Ian.

Ron and Barb have purchased the family farm and are presently in the hog business.

Vi has worked with the Alberta Government for nearly 30 years — had spent 26 years with Alberta Agriculture and has spent the last four years with Alberta Highway Patrol and the Driver Examiners. She plans on retiring very shortly. Then Vi and I will spend our time fishing (I am at the present time building ourselves a camper) and also we will be spending a lot of time with our grandchildren. Maybe I will find the time to teach one of the grandchildren how to play the trumpet which I have always loved — I am sure one of them will be a chip off the old block and have a great love for music which I have always had.

## **The Tom Lane Family**

In the spring of 1925, Tom Lane and his wife, Martha, arrived with their four children, Ethel, Cecil, Robert and Harry, to make their living and a home in Westlock. Their farm was located two miles north of Westlock, the NW¼ 9-60-26 W4, along the right-of-way of the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway. The farm had been C.P.R. land, and was formerly owned by Mrs. Lea of Edmonton, Alberta. She had rented the farm to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Patterson, who had bought a farm west of Westlock and were moving on to it. Rather than find another renter, she decided to sell the property.

The Lane family had lived in Tawatinaw for ten years previous to moving to Westlock. There they had homesteaded the land that faced one of the chain of lakes that are located north of Halfway Lake.

Tom and Martha were very active in community work as it was a new settlement, and all were homesteaders. Tom was councillor and Reeve of the Tawatinaw Municipality for many years — his district was Nestow and Halfway Lake. He was one of the organizers and trustees of the first school board of Peaceful School.

The reason for moving was High School. Peaceful only taught to grade eight. When the children were approaching high school age Tom and Martha decided, rather than send them away to high school, the whole family would move to a centre where high school was taught. Westlock was their choice. The



Tom and Martha Lane standing by their model T Ford in Westlock in 1925.

four children grew up in Westlock and attended high school there.

Ethel became a school teacher and taught for a number of years in various schools in the Westlock district. She married Jim Rimmer of Pibroch, Alberta, in 1936. She and Jim are retired now, and live in Calgary, Alberta.

Cecil married Ella Myers, a Westlock district girl, in 1941. They bought farmland in the Prosperous area and are still living there. Cecil is still active in farming and is also in a trucking business.

Robert married Lillian Knutson of Hanna, Alberta in 1937. He, too, became a farmer, buying the Stuart Beatt place. Later he became a well known livestock dealer in the Westlock area. He moved to the Town of Westlock and became interested in community work. He was a Town Councillor for twelve years and Fire Commissioner for many years, also. Robert (Bob) died on May 6th, 1974. Lil resides in Westlock.

Harry, the youngest of the family, after completing High School at the age of seventeen, joined the Royal Canadian Navy and was engaged in active service on shore and the high seas for four years during World War II. After the war, he married Viola

Hess of Clyde, Alberta, in 1946, and he, too, became a farmer in the Westlock district, with sidelines in a T.V. business and cabinet making. Harry and Vi still reside on the farm and are very active in their work.

Tom and Martha left the farm in 1950 and retired in the Town of Westlock, renting the farm to their son, Robert.

Tom died in 1953 and Martha in 1964.

After Martha's death, the farm was sold to Leo Tymkow, the present owner.

### Donald Lang Family

Donald and Audrey (nee Martin) came to the Westlock District in the fall of 1969 with their two children; Patrick Donald and Sherry Lynn.

Prior to this they had lived in the Colchester district, South Edmonton, where they ran a dairy farm.

The home quarter (SW-24-59-26-W4), better known as "Protestant Hill" to oldtimers, was purchased from Peter and Mary Gregorwich. Here, Don grain farms and has a small herd of beef cattle. He also farms the E½ — 27-59-26-W4.

Their children went to school in Westlock. Pat is now at Olds College where he is taking "Farm and Ranch Production." Sherry is enrolled at the University of Alberta in the B.A. faculty, majoring in Drama.



Don Lang family. Audrey, Pat, Sherry and Don.



## The Larson Family

by A. E. Larson

The family left the mining town of Cardiff, just east of Morinville, in the spring of 1916, along with Mrs. Larson's father who had purchased a quarter section, the S.W. quarter of 32-59-26-W4, one half mile south of the village. At the same time, my father August Larson had purchased the S.W. quarter 28-59-26-W4, commonly known to the old timers of the area as the Tom Nunn quarter. On this place was a small frame cabin plus miscellaneous log buildings and pole corrals. With the meager amounts of cash on hand, necessary pigs, cattle, chickens etc. were purchased. As a very small amount of land had been cultivated, animals had to be kept at a minimum because of the feed situation. The majority of the quarter was unfenced and consisted of patches of poplar, balm and considerable willow swamp. It was at that time veritable homestead country and not an uncommon sight to see wild animals close to the buildings. The nearest neighbours, Eli and Len Herman to the east and to the north, one mile to the H. G. Berry farm. The only roads were brush trails. Across the road line was all school section. Later in 1917, Jim Campo moved in a mile south. It was a carefree life with lots of hard work for the men. Berry picking and gardening for the women and young people. However, hard times hit with a shortage of feed in 1918, followed by the dreaded outbreak of the flu, which took many lives. August lost his cattle with the shortage of feed and the high prices and poor quality. After this he sold the Tom Nunn farm and temporarily moved in with his father-in-law. Because of the flu, travelling was not allowed. Consequently, the bad winter of 1918 and '19 I remember very well, although very young. Daily trips were made to town by my father, often taking me along with the white safety masks over our faces. Father's trips were to aid Rev. Randall bury the victims of the dreaded disease. So many were ill at the same time that those able, had



August and Mary Ann Larson on retirement, 1943.



The first hospital in Westlock.

to volunteer their services and help in any way possible. I don't remember how many in our family were affected, other than that I didn't have it and we lost no-one.

In the spring of 1919 after the dangers were over, August, his wife Mary Ann, three boys, Thomas, August and Gordon, moved to Vancouver Island, settling in Ladysmith. Father, a miner, had no trouble finding work. For the next five years the family remained there and Mavis was born in 1921. In 1925 after a serious accident and danger of the mine closing, the decision to return to Westlock was made. This trip was to become one of the highlights of our memories. Father had purchased a 1918 Dodge touring car. The trip was made in August 1925 starting from Ladysmith, and the first mishap was hitting a cow near Nanaimo. Someway the automobile was loaded on the C.P.R. Ferry and repairs made in Vancouver. At that time the route was via Seattle, Snoqualmie Pass, Ellensburg, north via the Bluet Pass to the Winatchie Valley. This we remember as the owner of the orchard we were camped in gave us all the apples we could pack, then warned Father of the possibility of the odd rattlesnake. You guessed it: Mother would not let us out of the car. Next came Soap Lake, Spokane, Bonners Ferry, Sandpoint and Kingsgate. From here the road was over much the same route to Banff, except it missed Radium. The reason I included this story was that the entire trip was made at 20 miles per hour. The remainder of the trip was without incident other than the mud and a broken axle at Morinville, where Mr. Gardam took the family on to Westlock, while father stayed to have the repairs made, arriving the next day.

Our first schooling was in the old U.F.A. Hall and once more our home was temporarily with Grandfather Bowen. The following spring we moved to Bon Accord where father had found employment. Thomas stayed with Grandfather and continued his schooling in Westlock. A year or so later we moved

back to Westlock and finally settled in the old Berry log house; a very beautiful structure with a tremendous fireplace. This farm was then owned by Dios Smith. All buildings were built of logs and fences of slab. A great deal of care had gone into the construction of this farm by Mr. Berry, who was an excellent carpenter. This suited the family as it was only a mile from school, and with a few horses and cattle was the ideal arrangement. Father worked in town when work was available. At this time the start of the great depression had begun and work was becoming scarce, and smaller concerns were going bankrupt. Although this was happening, the full force of the depression would not be felt for another year. Wages at this time were away down.

It was about this time that the new United Church was started with a contractor named Neilsen handling the contract. Father and Charley Marshall, another old timer, mixed the cement for the entire basement by hand, working twelve hours a day for one dollar. This structure is still in use.

The next year he became the caretaker of the school, and to the present is remembered by most of the students from 1930 until he retired in 1943, and moved back to the coast to his beloved sea. Father as a boy of 11 years started as a cabin boy on a square rigged sailing ship in Sweden and continued this as deep water sailor for eleven years. At the age of 23, after his third shipwreck on Sable Island from which only three men escaped alive, and as all seamen were very superstitious, it was three times and out. On leaving the hospital in New York he used what money

he had to get as far inland as possible. He, according to his records, sailed on the world's fastest ship, the Scottish owned Thermopolae, on the China tea run. Father lived in Vancouver until his passing at 84 years, being survived by Mother who passed on at 89 years. Thomas (Tom) the oldest boy, started work with the Bank of Montreal in 1930 under Manager William Hurst, and retired 49 years later as manager of the branch of Chilliwack, B.C.

August, the second, after a session of farming, Civil Service, and then back to farming on his own, is now retired on the farm 13 miles east of Camrose.

Gordon, the third, was in the creamery with William Gilchrist for a number of years, after which he had his own electrical business in Edmonton. He is now retired in Chemainus, B.C.

Mavis, the youngest was for some years with the Bank of Montreal, and the school board in Westlock, and is now retired and living at Boundary Bay, B.C. All three of the boys served in the armed forces during the war.

### **Charles E. Leake Family by Mrs. L. M. Adkins**

My father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Leake, were born in Nova Scotia. With three small children, they, and my father's two brothers, went to the United States. After several moves, we lived in Oklahoma, where I was born, the youngest of eight children. Here we met the Evans family, and hearing about the homesteads in Alberta, they came first and



The Leake family at a fishing party on the Pembina River in 1907.



settled. A young Scotsman, Will Ferguson, came with them, and he and Mr. Evans homesteaded on farms cut by the Wabash Creek. Uncle Dave homesteaded the land that was later owned by Mr. Baxandall.

In 1904 we left Oklahoma and came to Alberta, arriving in Strathcona on May 1st. of that year. My father found work at once and soon built our home. By doing building in Strathcona my father gradually acquired horses and the necessary equipment to start on the farm. He filed on the land joining Dave's, to the south, and my brother Fred took up the land across from Archie Brown's.

My first trip out to the farm was in the fall of 1906, travelling by team and wagon and sleeping beside the road. Prairie chickens were plentiful and we enjoyed a good supper.

We arrived at the Evans home at night. The crossing for the Wabash was near their home and we spent the night in their log house.

My Father had built a one-room frame cabin on our place, so we were quite comfortable when we moved in to it. There were many rabbits around and also prairie chickens, so we always had something to eat. The basic groceries were obtained at a store and Post Office run by Mr. and Mrs. H. Letts, in the Pembina district.

Rev. Telfer was a missionary minister who rode on horseback to several charges around the area to hold services. We attended the services in the log house on Mr. Cross' farm. At one of these services I met my friend, Olive Allen. We had first met on the train between Calgary and Edmonton, and then again while attending school at Strathcona.

Later, my sisters Jessie and Gertrude came to Edmonton and my sister Vernon and I continued our education at Strathcona.

My father made a final move to the homestead in 1907 and by that time had cleared land for a garden and built a barn for cows and horses.

We had an exceptional community life, with

good neighbours with whom we would exchange books and music. In 1909, by united effort, the Hazel Bluff church was built and this became the centre of our worship and social life.

In 1913 I went to Camrose Normal School, afterwards teaching for four months at Violet Hill School, near Clyde, on a permit. When I returned home in July of that year, there was the village of Westlock. While I had been away the railroad had come through and buildings had either been built or moved in, forming the nucleus of the now thriving town of Westlock. I remember McTavish's store, a restaurant run by Mrs. Kinsella, Jesse Bell's store across the base line and, best of all, the trains passing through!

My oldest sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Nix came in 1909, and lived in Edmonton, where he had a business. My second sister, Mrs. Carmichael, and her family came later, and they lived in Edmonton.

In 1919 my father built a home in Westlock and passed away there in 1926. My mother lived there until her death in 1938.

I am the only member of our big family who is left, and I have many happy memories of life in the Westlock District. I was born on March 8th, 1894, so I will soon be celebrating my 88th birthday.

## LeBeau's

written by Joyce LeBeau

The N.E. ¼-31-25-60 was the original homestead of my grandfather, Joseph LeBeau. It was situated on the South east corner of LeBeau's Lake.

Joseph lived and raised his family at Blue Island, Illinois. He moved from there to Ontario in 1900. Two of his sons, Fred and Sam came West, and they fell in love with the country, so went back to persuade my Grandfather to come. My Grandmother had recently died so Grandpa decided to move. In 1905 he moved to Edmonton with his four sons, two daughters and one daughter-in-law.

When they got to Edmonton they met up with friends from Ontario by the name of Dusseault. Mr. Dusseault and Grandpa started a brick yard at St. Albert, where the big St. Albert shopping center is now. Grandpa had been a brick layer in Illinois, and he found that the clay was not suitable for bricks at St. Albert, so the venture didn't last long. Grandpa moved from St. Albert to the homestead, north east of Westlock, in 1906 with his family.

The three grown sons, Zeph, Sam and Fred contained homesteads near Grandpa. My Dad, Adolph (Boy) LeBeau, was the youngest, only seven years old when they came to the homestead. My aunts, Mary and Clara, kept house together until Clara married Mose Dusseault in 1910 and moved to their



George Adkins and Syd Weaver with oxen.



Decker's sale at Clyde, May 1, 1939.

farm one mile east of Grandpa. Mary stayed on the farm until she died in 1917.

Daddy said that times were pretty hard but they always had lots of cattle and horses and plenty to eat. It was a wonderful place for a growing boy as there was only two months of school in the summer so the rest of the time he trapped and hunted around the lake.

Grandpa used to go once a year to Morinville for groceries. There wasn't any Westlock in those days. Daddy used to tell us about Grandpa sending Uncle Sam to Morinville to get their winter supply of groceries. Guess Uncle Sam sold the grain, home-made butter, eggs, etc. and instead of getting the groceries he got into a poker game and lost the whole works. Guess he wasn't too popular at home that winter, even though he managed to borrow a few dollars to bring home a few groceries. Needless to say, it was Uncle's last trip for supplies.

Grandpa got one of the first Model T-Fords in the district after the first world war. For someone that was used to driving horses all the time, he had quite a time learning to drive the Ford. Daddy used to laugh as he recalled him driving around the yard hollering "Whoa!" when he wanted to stop. Maybe that was



Far right, Grandpa LeBeau.

one of the reasons he became a Councillor in 1918. The head office was at Pibroch in those days. I don't know how long he was a councillor, but he died in November 1926.

Uncle Sam got Grandpa's place and he lived on the farm until he retired to Edmonton. The farm now belongs to Roland Hill.

Daddy married Winnifred Campbell in November of 1924 and raised six children on his homestead, the SW $\frac{1}{2}$ -32-25-60, a quarter of a mile south of Grandpa's place. His son Arthur is still living on the farm. Two of his sons, Joe and Larry live in Westlock, Jack is farming at Smith, Maxine lives in Edmonton and I (Joyce) live in Westlock.

All the original LeBeau's that came West have died. Some of the cousins live in B.C., Calgary and Edmonton. Many changes have occurred since Grandpa moved West in 1905.

## Lecky

by Doreen Lecky

Randal Lecky was born January 15th, 1885, Co. Antrim, Ireland. Came to Canada in the early 1900's. Homesteaded in southern Saskatchewan. October 29th, 1913 he married Maude Rhoda Brownrigg, daughter of Herbert Brownrigg of Saskatoon. Mrs. Lecky was born 1st August, 1890 in Vancouver, B.C. When she was in her early teens the family moved to Saskatoon where they took in boarders. After their marriage Randall worked for the Massey Harris and John Deere Company.

Their four children were born in Saskatoon: James (Jim), 18th November 1916; George, 8th October 1918; Kathleen and Hugh, twins, 25th September 1921.



Lecky family, 1958. L to R: Jim, Hugh with his son George, Randal, Mrs. Maude Lecky, Kathleen with daughters Joan standing in front of her, Marlyn and Susan sitting. Marlyn is holding Kathleen (Hugh's daughter) and George.



Mr. Lecky came to Pickardville district in early 1926. He purchased a quarter of land from Mr. Karl Hanson (S.E. 15-58-27-W4). Mrs. Lecky and the children arrived in October. She became a member of the W.I. and The Happy Home Makers Club. She was well known for making a good cup of tea and home made jams. She passed away 22nd September 1981 at the age of 91.



George, Kathleen, Jim and Hugh Lecky.

Mr. Lecky helped form the Trails End School District and was the first Secretary on that School Board. The four children attended this school. Randal passed away 9th October 1969, at the age of 81.

The oldest son, Jim, went on to receive his papers in Steam Engineering and worked in various saw mills, a coal mine in Mercoal and in the oil fields as a Steam Boiler Operator. In 1946 he purchased a quarter of land (N.E. 10-58-27-W4) from Mrs. Swanson. In 1979 he sold this land but continued to reside on the original family farm with his mother. On the 28th of January 1981 Jim married Alvina Zingle of Edmonton.

Hugh served in the Army, while George and Kathleen served in the Air Force, during the Second World War. Hugh was stationed overseas. George and Kathleen served in Canada only.

George went on to becoming an Electrician, with his own shop in Provost, Alberta. It was here he met and married Myrtle Harwood, daughter of James Harwood of Strathmore. George's knowledge in electronics led him on to Jasper and then Drayton Valley where he was employed by an Oil Company. In 1965 he became Administrator and part owner of Rivercrest Lodge Nursing Home in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta. He passed away 14th June 1975, leaving his wife and their three children.

Linda Diana born 27th June 1951. Linda is nurs-



Mr. and Mrs. Randal Lecky, 1942.



25th Wedding Anniversary of Hugh and Doreen Lecky, Nov. 24, 1980. L to R: Kathleen, George, Doreen, Frances, Hugh, James, Denise.

ing in Edmonton. James Randal born 22nd September 1952; lives in Toronto, Ontario, furthering his career in music and voice. Edward Hugh born 15th April, 1954; employed in Jasper, Alberta at Marmot Ski Lodge.

On 11th March 1948 in Vancouver, B.C. Kathleen married Merrill Henderson, son of Albert Gedeon Henderson of Cardston, Alberta. They have three daughters: Joan (Green) born 20th October 1948; she resides in Vancouver. Marlyn (Ellis) born 2nd January 1951; resides in Abbotsford, B.C. Susan (Arends) born 30th August 1954; resides in Jasper, and three grandchildren, Marlyn has two boys; Susan has one girl.

The 24th November 1955 Hugh married Doreen Roselie Lucy Borlee, oldest daughter of George Borlee of Pickardville. They have five children.

George Randal born 16th October 1956. He took Commercial Sign Writing and Spray Painting at N.A.I.T. after graduating from high school in 1974. In 1982 he purchased a quarter of land (N.E. 11-58-27-W4) from his dad. He spends the winter months logging in the bush.

Kathleen Marjorie born 2nd January 1958 and Denise Marie born 16th March 1960, both studied Secretarial Arts at N.A.I.T. after completing their former schooling. They are employed in Edmonton.

James Robert born 26th August 1964, graduated May 1982 from High School. He plans to attend N.A.I.T.

Frances Ann born 13th September 1969, is taking grade eight at St. Mary School in Westlock.

George, Kathleen and Denise started their schooling at St. Bernadette School in Pickardville. (Their mother also attended this school from grade five to nine.) When the school closed in June 1969, they went to St. Mary School, Westlock, it was from here that they graduated.

## **The Aldemard Lefebvre History by Angie Rimmer**

On a cool September 16, 1910 in St. Helene, Quebec, Aldemard was born to William and Bertha Lefebvre. In 1918 he travelled west with his family. At an early age of 42 his mother passed away and Aldemard was left with the task of raising a young family. His sister Yvette helped and he managed to cope quite well from what I can see, as we have very nice aunts and uncles to show for it. His family consisted of Yvette (Biggeman), Yvanhoe, Simone (Jolivette), Rene and Fernand (who was killed at the age of 21). His father passed away at the age of 63. Once the family could look after themselves, Dad worked as a carpenter or farming, whatever or wherever someone needed help.



Bill Lefebvre family, L to R: Rene, Simone, Yvette, Yvanhoe and Aldemard.

At the age of 37 on November 19, 1947 he married Lucienne Pombert. For approximately 3 months they lived with my grandfather, Laurent Pombert. Upon completing a house on some property he purchased they moved into their own home. This land was situated on highway 44 just south of Doherty's Garage. Dad later sold the lot to the north to Mr. George Durand. Mr. and Mrs. Emil Prince owned the property south of ours. Later Gerry and Maryann Prince built there.

Dad worked for sometime as a carpenter at the new hospital in Westlock and approximately 1955 started a job as caretaker of Westlock Elementary School. Mr. Ken Nixon was principal at this time. He



Lucy and Aldemard Lefebvre. Christmas in Kelowna.



worked there for about 10 years when he took over as custodian of the new St. Mary School in 1964. Dad worked there for 10 years until his health forced him into retirement.

Angelina was born October 26, 1948. In the year 1950 Mom and Dad lost a set of twin boys, Eugene and Joseph. On March 29, 1952 Alice was born, and finally, on December 31, 1955 a bouncing baby boy, Robert was born.

I married Terry Rimmer of Pibroch August 3, 1968. We have two daughters, Chandelle 14 years and Danielle age 9. We operate a farm and ranch at Pibroch. Alice is now married and lives east of Red Deer. Her husband Morley Scriven owns his own cement construction company. They have two children, Michelle age 11 and Raymond age 9. Robert married Lorele Houd of Penticton, B.C. and they have one boy Brent who is only 6 months old. Robert is a Sergeant with the Canadian Armed Forces and is presently stationed at Beaverlodge, Alberta. Dad passed away suddenly June 13, 1979 at the age of 68. Mom now has a very comfortable apartment in Westlock.

As a child I remember many warm and happy times that we spent as a family. Many evenings were spent at the home of my aunts and uncles and I remember going over to visit our cousins on the farm. We would always receive a very heart warming welcome and would spend long evenings of singing songs and visiting along with all the homemade bread, butter, pickles and many other things too numerous to mention. These times seem to have vanished nowadays and I often wish that our children could experience this small bit of nostalgia once in a while. My parents placed a high value on the good aspects of life and tried to extend these on to us. We lived a comfortable life and everything we received we appreciated. Time travels quickly and I find now that it has all slipped away into history.

### The Lefebvre's

The Bill Lefebvre Family moved from Montreal to the Provost area of Alberta in 1916. They had six children, Aldemard, Yvanhoe, Yvette, Simonne and Rene, who were born in Montreal, and Fernand, who was born in Alberta. After six years in the south they moved by train to Westlock in 1922. They spent a few days at Roch's Bakery. Mr. and Mrs. Roch were friends from Montreal days. The Lefebvres then stayed for six months with brother George, and the older children attended Edison School.

They then moved to a farm owned by Johnny Zaczkowski, about four miles north of Edison, and from there the children attended Poplar Knoll School. Mr. Lefebvre worked with the Zaczkowski's

in their lumber mill and they remained on the farm until Mrs. Lefebvre's death in 1934. Mr. Lefebvre died in 1949.

Aldemard married Lucienne Pombert, Yvanhoe married Eva Carty, Simonne became Mrs. Jules Jolivette, and Yvette later married Joe Biggeman. Rene is married and lives in Surrey, B.C. Fernand died at the age of twenty-one.

### Georges Lefebvre Family

Mr. and Mrs. Georges Lefebvre, with their son Mendoza and daughter Georgette, came from Montreal in 1918, to a farm four miles east and two miles south of Westlock, where they lived and farmed until April 1940. Then they moved to what was known as the "Petit Farm". They farmed there from 1940 to 1945, when they moved to their own farm one and a half miles south of Westlock.



Mr. and Mrs. George Lefebvre.

In 1945, Mendoza married, and continued to live on the farm until the mid-fifties. Mrs. Lefebvre passed away on January 13, 1955. Mendoza moved to Vancouver in 1966, where he stayed until he passed away on September 9, 1979. He is buried in the Westlock Catholic Cemetery near his father and mother.

Georgette moved into the town of Westlock in September of 1945 and opened up a Beauty Salon which she operated until June, 1973. She is now retired and lives in the Parkview Plaza apartments, a senior citizens' complex in Westlock.



Mr. George Lefebvre family, Georgette, and Mandoza.

### Yvanhoe and Eva Lefebvre

Yvanhoe Lefebvre and Eva Carty were married in 1942 and lived on a farm located on Section 23-60-26-W4.

They had six sons and one daughter; Bill, Yvonne, Eugene, Dale, Harold, Delvin and Marcel.

Yvanhoe and Eva are both good gardeners, as can be seen by their picturesque front and back yards.

Yvanhoe worked for four years with the Municipal District of Westlock before moving into Westlock in 1966. He continued to work with the M.D. for fifteen more years until his retirement in 1980.

Eva has been an active member of the Farm Women's Union of Alberta for many years, and has done considerable volunteer work in the community. She is quite clever at handicrafts and also does fine



Yvanhoe Lefebvre family, 1930.

baking. She often takes an active part in the various programs at the Golden Age Club, of which she and Yvanhoe are both members.

### The Lefebvre Story by Jeanette Boutin

The first Lefebvre generation known are Amedie and Zoe Lefebvre. Amedie was born in 1855 in Quebec. He married Zoe Lacompte who was born in 1857 and died on July 26th, 1938. They are both buried in Valleyfield, Quebec. Amedie and Zoe had five children, George, Olier, Aurore Barrette, William and Marie Pharand. They all settled in the east except William and George who moved to Alberta.



Bill Lefebvre and Bertha.



**George Louis Amedie Lefebvre** — George was born on February 27th, 1872 in Valleyfield, Quebec. He married Armandiana Hainault on February 19th, 1906. They had two children, Mandoza and Georgette. They settled in the Westlock area after moving from Quebec. **Mandoza** was born on September 3rd, 1913 in Montreal, Quebec. He married Rose Marie Zelia on June 19th, 1945 in Legal, Alberta. Rose was born on June 12th, 1924 in Beaumont, Alberta. Mandoza farmed in the Westlock area for some years then moved into Westlock. He ran the first drive-in theatre for some years then moved to New Westminster, B.C. Mandoza died on September 9th, 1979 and is buried in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Westlock. Mandoza and Rose had one child, Rose Theresa married her first husband on May 27th, 1967 in Surrey, B.C. They had two children Shane George William and Niemi Chellaan. All the family still live in B.C. **Marie Pauline Georgette** was born on May 15th, 1915. Georgette never married and lived in Westlock where she worked as a hair dresser for many years. She is now retired and still living in Westlock.

**Olier Lefebvre** — Olier was born on June 24th, 1888 and died on March 9th, 1961. He is buried in the St. Laurent Cemetery in Montreal. He married Anita L'Heureux in Montreal, Quebec. They had two children, George and Paul. Anita L'Heureux was born on November 11th, 1894 in Montreal. She died on June 13th, 1949 and is buried in St. Laurent Cemetery. **George** married and they live in Pierrefonds, Quebec. His wife's name is Uillia. **Paul** was born on June 11th, 1916 in Montreal. He works in the building business in Montreal. He married Jeanette Sauvageau on June 14th, 1947 in Montreal. Jeanette was born on October 25th, 1920 in Montreal. They have three children, Paul who was born on November 22nd, 1950 in Montreal, Jean Pierre who was born May 14th, 1955 and Claudene who was born on January 8th, 1957 in Montreal.

**Aurore Lefebvre** — Aurore married Normidas Laderoute then her second husband Napoleau. Aurore and Normidas have one son, Robert who died in 1976 in Valleyfield, Quebec. Aurore died on January 11th, 1942 in Montreal, Quebec.

**Marie Anne Lefebvre** — Marie was born on September 16th, 1880 in Valleyfield Quebec. She married Alfred Pharand in October, 1907, in Montreal, Quebec. Alfred was born on November 10th, 1879 in Montreal, Quebec. They had eight children: **Alfreda** was born on January 16th, 1916 in Montreal. She married Roland Leduc on January 25th, 1964 in Montreal. They live in Perrot Sud, Quebec and they have no children. **Herve** was born on October 27th, 1920 in Montreal and died on

December 2nd, 1964. He married Lucienne Moreau on August 24th, 1946 in Montreal. Lucienne was born on October 16th, 1921 in Montreal. Herve and Lucienne had three children, Diane, Daniel and Ives. They lived in Montreal where Herve had worked as a C.N. inspector. **Leonel** was born on September 5th, 1908 in Montreal. He married Francine Foisy on December 11th, 1943 in Montreal. Leonel lived in Montreal where he worked as a salesman. Leonel and Francoise had two children, Louise and Francine. **Royal** was born on April 16th, 1912 in Montreal. He married Aurore Nareau in Montreal, Quebec. They had three children Genette, Lorraine and Denise. **Euchariste** was born June 13th, 1910 in Montreal. He married Marguerite Liboiron on June 6th, 1942 in St. Charles Catholic Church in Montreal. Marguerite was born on June 8th, 1915 in Montreal, Quebec. They had two children Pierre and Nicole.



L to R: Yvone and Rene Lefebvre, Eve Biggeman, Bertha, Fernand, William and Simone and Aldemard Lefebvre.

**Gerard** was born on October 14th, 1917 in Montreal. He married Collette Pelletier on July 12th, 1927 in Montreal. Collette was born on September 8th, 1927 in Montreal. They have two children Josee and Manon. They live in Verdun, Quebec. **Delipha** was born on January 29th, 1914 in Point St. Charles, Quebec, and died on May 6th, 1966. He married Mildred Martineau on November 1938 in Point St. Charles, Quebec. Mildred was born on January 25th, 1914 in Montreal, Quebec. Mildred died on March 8th, 1976. Delipha and Mildred had five children Richard Marcel, Robert Alfred, Paul Joseph, Leo Joseph Edward, Mildred Elizabeth. **Marcel** was born on May 25th, 1942 in Montreal. He married Henriette Lamontagne on March 9th, 1949 in

Montreal. Henriette was born on September 16th, 1921 in Montreal. They had seven children Lise, France, Sege, Monique, Carole, Johane Michel.

**William Lefebvre** — William was born in 1886 in Quebec and married Bertha Leger in May of 1909 in Quebec. Bertha was born in March of 1890. They had a double wedding ceremony with Louisa Leger and Yvanhoe St. Michel. William worked in a factory in Quebec. They had six children Aldemard, Yvanhoe, Yvette (Biggeman), Simone (Jolivette), Rene and Fernand. William and his family moved to Alberta in 1917 and farmed in the Provost area for six years. They then moved to a farm northeast of Westlock in 1923 and rented a farm from Zaczkowski where William farmed until his retirement. William died in 1942 of heart trouble and Bertha died in 1934 of sugar diabetes. They are both buried in the Westlock St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

**Aldemard Royal Lefebvre** — Aldemard was born on September 16th, 1910 in St. Helene, Quebec. Aldemard married Lucienne Gloria Pombert on November 19th, 1947 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Westlock. Lucienne was born on February 25th, 1911 in Aylmer, Quebec. They lived in Westlock where Aldemard worked as a janitor for the Westlock School Division until his retirement. Aldemard died on June 13th, 1979 and is buried in the Westlock St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Aldemard and Lucienne had three children:

**Angelina Bertha** was born on October 26th, 1948 in Westlock. She married Terrance Raymond Rimmer on August 3rd, 1968 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Westlock. Terry was born on May 15th, 1946 in Westlock. Terry and Angela live in Pibroch where Terry farms. They have two children, Chantelle Lee and Danielle Dorraine. **Alice** was born March 29th, 1952 in Westlock. Alice married and divorced Fern Paré then on June 30th, 1979 she married Morley Scrivin in Red Deer, Alberta. Morley was born on January 7th, 1950 in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Morley and Alice live in Red Deer where Morley is a contractor. They have four children Morley Jr., Morley's child from his first marriage, Raymond, Michelle and Shana.

**Robert** was born on December 31st, 1954 in Westlock. He married Lorele Houd, daughter of Roland and Sarale Houd, in Penticton, B.C. They live in Beaverlodge, Alberta and they have one child, Brent.

**Yvanhoe Charles Roland** — Yvanhoe was born on November 13th, 1912 in Valleyfield, Quebec. He married Eva Irene Carty on October 5th, 1942 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Westlock. Eva was born on January 21st, 1921 in Deville, Alberta. She is the daughter of Monroe and Lucy Carty. Eva and

Yvanhoe live in Westlock. Yvanhoe farmed for some years in the Westlock area then worked for the municipality until his retirement. They have seven children: **William Robert** was born November 30th, 1940 in Westlock. He married Sharon Mary Platt on May 27th, 1961 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Westlock. Sharon was born on April 4th, 1943 in Westlock. They have two children, Kenton and Doyle. Billy and Sharon live in St. Albert where Billy works as a credit manager. **Yvonne Kathleen** was born on September 19th, 1943, in Westlock. She married Barry Vern Avison on August 18th, 1962 in Westlock. Barry was born on July 8th, 1940. They live in Beaumont where Barry works as a technician for the government. They have three children, Susan, Tamara and Jill. **Eugene Joseph Paul** was born on July 24th, 1946 in Westlock. He married Maxine Flora McLeod on May 4th, 1974. They have three children, Robin, Cory and Darren who is from Maxine's first marriage.

**Dale Fernand** was born on September 25th, 1947 in Westlock. He married Elaine Marie Lafranchise on September 6th, 1967 in Edmonton. Elaine was born on August 8th, 1948 in Edmonton. Dale and Elaine have one child Andrea Dawn. Dale and his family live in Milwood where Dale works as the Vice President of Union Tractor. **Harold Arthur** was born on February 20th, 1951 in Westlock. He married Shirley Ann Kadutski on April 22nd, 1972 in St. Paul. Shirley was born on June 4th, 1952 in Elk Point. Harold and Shirley live in Elk Point where Harold works as a carpenter. They have two children Stacey and Sandy. **Delvin** was born October 12th, 1956 in Westlock. He is married to Donna Crocher of Vermillion. Delvin and Donna live in Pickardville and Delvin works in Westlock for Doherty's Garage as a bodyman. **Marcel** was born on May 6th, 1958 in Westlock. Marcel works in Westlock for Westlock Farm Equipment.

**Yvette Lefebvre** — Yvette was born in Valleyfield, Quebec on August 23rd, 1914. She married Joseph Hubert Biggeman. Joe was born on May 15th, 1907 in Belva, Germany and died of cancer on December 24th, 1980. Joe is buried in the Westlock St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Joe and Yvette lived on a farm northeast of Westlock where Joe farmed until his retirement. Yvette had a stroke some years ago and now lives in Westlock. Joe and Yvette had fourteen children, Josephine Bertha (Hill), Lucien William, Evelyn Trejana (Dunn), Jannine (Wenger), Leo Jules, Joan (Goldenberg), Jeanette (Weiss), Edward, Marlene (Fizer), Beverly, Helen, Frances (Slabodian), Frank, Joe.

**Simone Lefebvre** — Simone was born on October 31st, 1916 in Valleyfield, Quebec. Simone went



to school in Poplar Knoll and went to grade eight. She worked out one summer doing housekeeping for Simone Bacon and made \$24.00 for three months. She then met and married Jule Jolivet on November 19th, 1934 in St. Mary's Catholic Church by Monseigneur Rooney in Westlock. The ceremony was a double ceremony with Alphege Jolivet and Louise Shafer. Jule and Simone had five children Julien, Claudette, Jeanette, Rosalie and Clement. (re. Jolivet History).

**Rene Arthur Lefebvre** — Rene was born on June 10th, 1919 in Provost. He married Marguerite Perle MacDonald on September 5th, 1944 in B.C. Marguerite was born in Telka, B.C. on April 2nd, 1923. Rene and Marguerite were both in the army which was where they first met. After the army they moved to New Westminster, B.C. Here Rene worked as a lumber mill employee until his retirement. They have ten children:

**Edward Lawrence** who was born on March 3rd, 1945 in Surrey, B.C. He married Sharon Germain on February 19th, 1966 in Surrey, B.C. Sharon was born on July 18th, 1946 in New Westminster, B.C. They have two boys Lawrence and William. Sharon and Edward live in Quesnel, B.C. where Edward works in the lumber business. **Maureen Bertha** was born on April 21st 1947 in New Westminster, B.C. She married James Robert Crowe on June 17th, 1967 in New Westminster, B.C. Jim was born on October 15th, 1945 in B.C. They have two children Lee James and Arlene Dawn. Maureen and Jim live in Coquitlam, B.C. and Jim is an electrician. **Maurice Arthur** was born on April 12th, 1947 in New Westminster, B.C. He married Linda Marie Myers on August 23rd, 1969 in Surrey, B.C. Linda was born on April 1, 1950 in New Westminster, B.C. They have two children Michael Edward and Lisa Marie. Maurice and his family live in Quesnel, B.C. where Maurice works as a loader operator in the lumber business. **Judith Diane** was born on August 11th, 1948 in Vancouver, B.C. She married Philip Joseph Kelly on January 27th, 1968 in Surrey, B.C. Joe was born on April 14th, 1947. They have three children, Krista, Andrea, and Scott. Joe and his family live at 100 Mile House B.C. where Joe works as a mechanic. **Janice Louise** was born on August 8th, 1950 in New Westminster, B.C. Janice lives in Surrey, B.C. and works in Vancouver as a secretary. **Rena Faye** was born on November 16th, 1951 in New Westminster, B.C. Rena lives in Surrey, B.C.

**Brian Glenn** was born on June 4th, 1953 in New Westminster, B.C. He married Yvonne Schiller on March 3rd, 1973 in Burnaby, B.C. Yvonne was born on February 20th, 1954. They have two children, Jennifer Yvonne, and Jeffrey Jason. Glenn and

Yvonne live in Quesnel, B.C. where Glenn owns a carpet business. **Cheryl Yvette** was born on May 24th, 1954 in New Westminster, B.C. She married Arthur Rossignol on February 14th, 1976 in Surrey, B.C. Arthur was born on January 24th, 1943 in St. Anne, N.B. They have four children, Richard and Annette from Arthur's first marriage then Sara and Marc. Arthur and his family live in Red Deer, Alberta where Arthur works as a plumber. **Dennis William** was born on September 6th, 1962 in New Westminster and George Alan was born on September 3rd, 1963 also in New Westminster. Both are not married and living in Quesnel, B.C. where they work in the carpet business.

**Fernand Lefebvre** — Fernand was born on June 13th, 1926 in Westlock. He died on August 24th, 1947 in a train accident. He is buried in the Westlock St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

## The Leger Story by Jeanette Boutin

The first Leger generation known was Armandian Bissonette and Noel Leger. Noel Leger was born in 1854 in Quebec and died in 1899 in Quebec. Armandian Bissonette was born in 1848 and died in 1909 in Quebec. They were married in 1968 in Montreal, Quebec. They had six children, Bertha (Lefebvre), Raoul, Trangana (Tailiffer), Louisa St. Michel, Hughie, Paul.



Trejana Tailiffer and Arthur Tailiffer, 1940.

**Louisa Leger** — Louisa married Yvanhoe St. Michel in May, 1909 in a double ceremony with William Lefebvre and Bertha Leger. Louisa died in 1912. Louisa and Yvanhoe had no children.

**Hughie Leger** — Hughie was born in 1896, died in 1921 and was never married.

**Paul Leger** — Paul died at the age of nine years.

**Trangana Leger** — Trangana was born on July 6th, 1889 in Quebec. She married Arthur Tailiffer on November 23, 1908 in Quebec. Arthur was born on May 28th, 1886 in Quebec. They had no children and both are now deceased. Trangana died in February, 1965 and Arthur died on October 15th, 1974. They are both buried in the Westlock St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Arthur farmed in the Westlock area until his retirement when they moved into Westlock.

**Raoul Leger** — Raoul was born on July 24th, 1898 in Quebec. He married Delia Annie Mojeau on October 24, 1927. Delia was born on July 22nd, 1899 and died on May 1st, 1953. Raoul then married Fernande Rose (Bradier) Rochat on February 19th, 1971 in Westlock, Alberta. Fernande was born on August 17th, 1895. Raoul and Delia had five children: **Louisa Regina** was born on April 22nd, 1928 in Westlock, Alberta. She married Armand Hilliard Charret on October 27th, 1947 in Westlock, Alberta. Armand was born on December 6th, 1918 in Beaumont, Alberta. They have four children, Eugene, Louis, Denise and Mariette (Jacob). Armand and Louisa live in Eaglesham where Armand farmed until his retirement. **Gilberta Annie** was born on December 2, 1929 in Westlock. She married George Elgin Featherstone on July 3rd, 1951 in Edmonton. George was born on September 20th, 1925 in Holderness. They have five adopted children and one of their own: Linda, Dennis, Terry, Beverly, Robin and Sheri. George and Gilberta live in Red Deer where

George has a janitor business. **Raymond Paul** was born on April 28, 1932 in Westlock. He married Rosilda Helene Girard on August 7th, 1956 in Westlock. Rosilda was born on October 23rd, 1937. They have five children: Maurice, Norman, Rosanne, Larry and Roland. Raymond and his family live in Eaglesham, Alberta where Raymond works on a bridge crew. **Jeanne Agnes** was born on June 19th, 1934 in Westlock. She married Edward Clifford Radke on June 21, 1952 in Westlock. Edward was born on March 20th, 1923, in Westlock, and died on September 1st, 1959. They had two children, Gary who was born on January 2nd, 1957 in Westlock. Gary lives in Westlock and works in the sheet metal business. Lorna was born on March 13, 1958 in Westlock. She married Leo Jay Repka on March 25th, 1976, in Edmonton. Leo was born on July 27th, 1955 in Edmonton. They have two children, Jason and Melisa. Leo is a labourer, and Lorna is nursing in the hospital. They are living in Edmonton. Jeanne married again on May 19th, 1962 in Westlock, to William James Cameron. Jim was born on May 19th, 1934 in Westlock. They had two children, Shirley and Brenda. Shirley was born on April 7th, 1963 in Westlock. She is now married. Brenda was born on March 24th, 1966 in Westlock. **Jesslaine Leger** Jesslaine married Orest Semenuik in Edmonton. They have three children and are living in Edmonton where Orest works for the government.

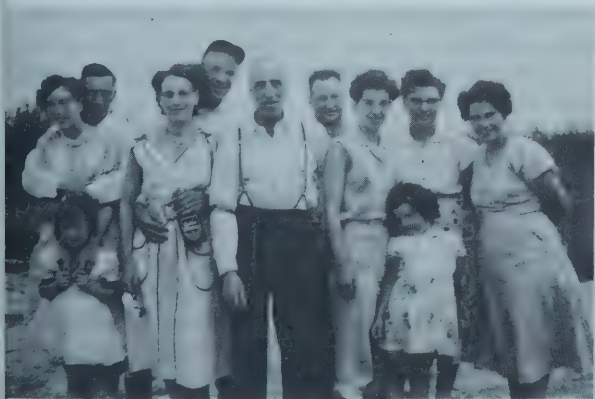
**Bertha Leger** — Bertha was born in March, 1890. She married William Lefebvre in May, 1909 in Quebec in a double ceremony with Louisa and Yvanhoe St. Michel. William was born in 1886 in Quebec. They had six children Aldemard, Yvanhoe, Yvette (Biggeman), Simone (Jolivette) Rene and Fernand. (re. Lefebvre History).

### Napoleon L'Heureux Family

Napoleon was the son of Joseph L'Heureux and Philomine Bilodeau. Born April 10, 1877, he left Quebec as a young man and went to Manchester, New Hampshire, U.S.A. to work in the mills as a weaver. There he met Demerise and they were married. They had two children, a son Emmanuel and a daughter Florence.

In 1908 the L'Heureux and Garon families came to Canada, where they rented a farm about two miles east of Morinville, Alberta, and stayed together for about a year.

Napoleon took up a homestead in Arvilla, the SE¼-12-58-1-W5 in 1908. Another son, Henri (Harry) was born on August 23, 1908 in Morinville, and in the fall the family moved to the homestead in Arvilla in a log shack with very little furniture. Most of it was home-made by Napoleon before they moved



Raoul Leger and Family, 1957. L to R: Raymond and Rosilda Leger, (Rosilda's sister) Edward and Jean Radke, Raoul Leger, Armand Charet, Jesslaine Leger (Semenuik), Louise Charret and Gilberta Leger (Featherstone).





Mr. and Mrs. Garon (left) Mr. and Mrs. LeHeureux.

in. A team of horses weighing 1700 pounds each was purchased, along with a wagon, to move the family to the homestead.

It took a while before some land could be cleared, broken and cultivated. Crops were often hailed. Emmanuel, Florence and Harry went to the Brooklyn School, #2036, which their father had helped to organize. He had also hauled much of the material required to build the school.

A new house was started in 1915-16 as the family grew up and worked. It being the war years, they never moved in until 1918. Later, two more farms were acquired, being the NE¼-13-58-1-W5 and SE¼-24-58-1-W5. It was possible at that time to buy a farm for \$12.00. By 1925 or 1926 Emmanuel was old enough to work on the farm, so the first tractor was bought. Approximately a year or so earlier the railway branch line from Busby to Barrhead, came through on the homestead, and Emmanuel helped to lay rails on the railroad. A store, a Post Office, a blacksmith shop and an elevator were built in Arvilla. Cars of livestock were also shipped from there.

A 28" x 46" Red River Special threshing machine was purchased in 1927 for \$1995.00. It was delivered to Arvilla by train and threshed for the neighbours around for many years. The first car a Landeau Sedan, was bought for \$1195.00. Licence plates used



Emmanuel LeHeureux, Florence, Harry and friends.

to run out the first of the year then so they used to send the plates back by October 1st. to get a three month refund, as the roads were not good for cars in the winter.

Livestock, such as cattle, pigs and sheep were kept and a large barn was built in the early thirties.

Napoleon was very well known for his good singing voice in the Church choir, as well as for his music. He played the violin by note, and played for dances for miles around.

In 1945 Mrs. L'Heureux moved to Edmonton, where she had a house built, while her husband remained on the farm with son Emmanuel, and his wife Mary. Napoleon passed away suddenly on November 29, 1954, and his wife, Demerise, passed away in February 1964. Both are buried in Pickardville St. Benedict Parish Cemetery.

### **The L'Heureux Children Emmanuel L'Heureux**

Emmanuel is the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon L'Heureux, and was born on October 13, 1903 in Manchester, New Hampshire, USA. He came with his parents to Morinville in 1908. In 1909 he moved to the homestead in Arvilla with his parents and farmed with his father until his father passed away in 1954.

He married Mary Munro in 1935. They had four sons and two daughters, Normand, Neil, Lois, Chyrl, Allen and Dumaine. The children reside in Edmonton and St. Albert.

In 1965 Emmanuel and Mary sold their farms to Roland and Leonard Garon and moved to Edmonton, where they still reside.

### **Florence L'Heureux (Mrs. Birth Deitrich)**

Florence was the second child and only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon L'Heureux and was born July 31, 1905 in Manchester, New Hampshire, USA. She also moved with her parents to Morinville, then to her father's homestead in Arvilla.

She married Birth Deitrich on June 1, 1936. He was born in Ontario July 1, 1907. They had two

daughters. Doreen married Steve Dutcha and they have two girls and live in Fort McMurray. Louise, the second daughter, married Henri Verunki and they have five children, and live in Edmonton.

Birth was the only elevator agent Arvilla ever had. He also owned two farms which he later sold to Victor Garon.

Florence was Postmistress in Arvilla from 1928 to 1958.

A farewell was given in their honour when the elevator in Arvilla closed down and they were to be transferred to Fawcett. Birth fell sick and suddenly passed away in August 1959. Florence moved to Edmonton with her mother, Mrs. Demerise L'Heureux, after Birth's death, where she died in December of 1961. Both Birth and Florence are buried in Holy Cross Cemetery in St. Albert.

### **Henri (Harry) L'Heureux**

Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon L'Heureux had a third child, Henri, who was born in Morinville August 23, 1909. He moved with his parents to the homestead in Arvilla in 1909, where he later attended school and stayed for part of his life.

He married Yonne St. Louis, daughter of Emmanuel St. Louis and Dorcina Beauchamp in April, 1933. They had four sons; Lawrence, Alfred, Donnie and Eddie. They also had one daughter who was born in 1940, but she died when she was only six months old, and was laid to rest in St. Benedict grave yard in Pickardville. The boys are all married and live in British Columbia.

Harry farmed the NW-12-58-1-W5 until 1955, when he sold his farm to his brother-in-law, Birth Deitrich.

The family moved to 70 Mile House in B.C. where he operated a saw mill.

Yonne passed away in January 1974 and was buried in Kamloops, B.C.

Harry later remarried and is now retired and lives in Langley, B.C. while his sons are still around 70 Mile House. He has ten grandchildren.

### **Alex and Pearl Lentz**

**by daughter Alberta (Lentz) Snyder**

Alex Lentz, born in Trowbridge, Ontario, in 1883, heard from Western pioneers that straw stacks in Western Canada were burned. He had only known about straw being very scarce, even for bedding horses and cattle, so he decided to go west and farm. On March 22, 1899, his 16th. birthday, he left Ontario by train, with a team of horses, a few settlers effects and a whole lot of courage, to try his luck in the new land. He arrived at Okotoks, NWT, the end of the steel, then drove north to Edmonton to join his older brother, George, who was homesteading the



Back row: Alex Lentz and George McMillan; front row: Pearl Smith and Maggie Lentz. Double wedding, April 3, 1907. Dresses made by Maggie Lentz. Hats made by Pearl Smith.

quarter of land now known as Speedway Park Race Track. Alex and George lived at that location, then known as Turnip Lake.

Three years later, their mother, Helena Lentz, and sister Maggie Lentz, came west to keep house for them.

In 1906, Alex took up a homestead at Busby. On April 3, 1907 Alex and Pearl Smith were married in a double wedding ceremony with George McMillan and Maggie Lentz being the other couple.

Alex and Pearl Lentz had two children: Louie in 1909 and Alberta, (Bertie) in 1911. They lived in Edmonton for about five years at this time. While there, Alex worked for the D. R. Fraser Lumber Co. doing dray work.

In 1915, just before the Saskatchewan River flood, Alex and Pearl moved back to the homestead. They later acquired two and a half quarters of land to go with the homestead. They sold out in 1939 and retired.

During their years on the farm, Dad was a director of the Busby Agriculture Society, a trustee of the School Board, and for many years did custom wood-sawing and grain-crushing.





A full load! "Copper" Louie Lentz' horse. Bertie and Louie Lentz, Loyd, Alex and Tom McMillan.

Alex and Pearl bought their first car in 1924, a model T Ford, with money raised by raising and dressing turkeys, which they sold to the MacDonald Hotel and Johnson's Cafe, then on Jasper Avenue and 101st. St.

They purchased their first tractor in 1929. Louie worked with Dad on the farm, raising, besides grain and hay, cattle, sheep and hogs, as well as chickens and turkeys. They were all active in church and community affairs.

Louie died in 1933, following an accident with a bull. Bertie taught at Fawn Lake School, and later married and moved to Bon Accord.

Alex and Pearl retired to Kelowna, B.C., where Pearl died in 1951. Alex died in 1971, after living in Edmonton with Bertie for some years. He is buried in Busby cemetery.

### Paul and Marion Leriger and Family

Paul arrived in Westlock on March 15, 1957 to be Manager of Improvement Districts 15 and 17 for the Department of Municipal Affairs. I came two weeks later, on April 1st, in a Volkswagen Beetle, with a few plants, a bowl with two goldfish, a cocker spaniel dog, our four year old son Douglas and Paul's mother, Mrs. Lucienne Leriger.

It was not an easy trip from Grande Prairie via

High Prairie and Smith that spring; the road ban was on and our furniture would arrive later — much later. Parts of the highway were flooded by spring runoff, but I had spent over seven years driving around the Peace River Country in all kinds of vehicles, so we made it safely.

It was almost impossible to find a place to live in Westlock at that time but some kind folks rented us a house they owned and we were pleased to be settled again.

Paul was very busy in a new job in a large area that required a great deal of travel as the Improvements Districts involved were scattered. Some of the stories of his work and his travels during those years would be good book material themselves.

I had decided not to become involved in nursing for a while. Doug was four and the following year our second son, Jim, was born in May.

Paul has always been a hunter and fisherman and we were both outdoor types, so looked around for a lake where we could have a little cabin and in 1958, started to build a small cabin at the north end of Long Island Lake. That spot has given our whole family many happy holiday years.

As our boys grew we became involved in cubs, minor hockey, and ball. Paul coached a midget hockey team and our interest in outdoor activities broadened as we were able to include our two sons, and we spent our summers on camping and fishing trips.

However, I guess "once a nurse — always a nurse" and I soon found myself involved in the local Nurses Chapter where I met a great bunch of ladies. This of course, led to nursing at the Immaculata Hospital which I continued to do for many years. I had always been interested in the extended family concept of nursing since doing Public Health Nursing, and when the Westlock Nursing Home opened in 1970, I became the Head Nurse. For the next twelve years I was honored to know and care for many of the pioneers of this area.

Paul had been busy travelling to Swan Hills, Calling Lake, Wabasca, Peerless Lake, Red Earth, Flatbush and Smith covering the territory in the the scattered Improvement Districts he was administering.

We became home-owners in 1962 when we built a home in Southview and our spare time was spent landscaping both at home and at the cabin. But there was always time for fishing and hunting trips and I guess the legacy we have passed on to our two sons is a love of the outdoors and the happiness that comes from spending time there.

In 1980 Paul retired from Provincial Government

Service after over thirty years, most of this time with the Department of Municipal Affairs.

In August, 1982, after being Director of Patient Services at the Westlock Nursing Home, I retired also and we decided to spend more time travelling and enjoying the outdoor activities that we both love so much.

Our sons are both married. Doug and Brenda, who are both naturalists, reside at Nestow on an acreage. They have two young sons; David and Christopher.

Jim and Mary Anne live at Morinville and have one son, Robert. Our grandchildren are just the right ages to be spoiled by their grandparents and we should all be able to spend more time at that old cabin at Long Island Lake.

Paul has army "buddies" from the "First Special Service Force" who are scattered across Canada and the United States. We have visited with some of them and have recently attended the re-unions held each year. We plan to see more of Canada and perhaps manage a few warm winters in Arizona, but Westlock is our town, our home town, and always will be.

### **George Harry Letts Family** **written by Dorothy Letts Stephens**

In 1903 Thomas Letts, William Clark and Stewart Hart came out from Eastern Canada to see this new land. They were impressed and thought the Pembina River District very good for their new homes. My father George Harry Letts decided that if brother Thomas who had a good farm down East was coming west, that he should leave his poorer farm and come too.



Back row: Blake, Dorothy and Nelson Letts, Jack McCrae, Archie Brown, Mrs. Letts and Mrs. E. Hunt.

In 1904 Thomas and Harry filed on homesteads along the Pembina River. Harry's was SW24 T60 R27 W5 and Thomas' adjoining at NW13 T60 R1 W5, where Bethal Bible Camp is and where Nelson Letts lives.

Harry's (my father) first house was of logs with an upstairs. Next March 1905 my mother, Alice Smiley a Quebec school teacher, and their year old son Nelson, along with Thomas's wife Margaret came to join their husbands.

Father started a general store known as Pembina Store from 1906. Goods for the store had to be freighted from Edmonton which was a five day trip with horses and wagon. Mother kept the Pembina Post Office. Father was also registrar of births, deaths and marriages from 1908-1921.

In 1907, I, Dorothy was born, the first baby to be born to that new settlement.

Often while father was away for supplies mother would be nervous when groups of Indians came down the river in their canoes. She was relieved if they went on by. They never caused any trouble. Some times they would come to the store to trade furs for groceries. She said the squaws wished to see the "Ba bee" and would shake their heads. I guess they thought I was too pale to survive.

Bella MacDougall Lyons, who was 13 or 14 years old stayed with mother while father was away for supplies. When Mother went away to have me, her



Dorothy, Blake and Nelson Letts, 1913.



baby, Bella had charge of the Post Office. Mother had to leave signed postal notes with Bella for anyone sending orders. In order to protect these Bella said she took them to bed with her each night.

In 1909 our family moved to a South African script which father bought NW23 T60 R27 W5th in what was later Sunny Bank District. Thomas Letts took the store over then. Later in 1913 another brother Ernest Letts and family came west. They took over from Thomas.

Also in 1909 Grandfather and Grandmother William and Dorothy Letts came west so Father and Mother could care for them in their old age. He homesteaded the farm beside ours where his great grandson, Reg. Stephens now lives.

Grandma died in 1915 and Grandpa lived with mother and father until his death in 1927 age 90 years.

When the grandparents came west in 1909 their daughter, Aunt Lizzie Struthers, her husband George and daughter Emily (now Dyk) came and settled on the quarter east of ours.

My brother Blake was born at Sunny Bank in 1910. Father and Mother lived on the same farm until their retirement to Westlock in 1952.

In 1913 Sunny Bank School started. We all, Nelson, Dorothy and Blake got public schooling there and high school in Westlock. There were no buses then.

Nelson decided to farm. Dorothy went through for a teacher and taught until marrying Orton Stephens in 1928. Blake, also a teacher, taught for a few years then studied for a doctor. He has been a busy doctor ever since; many years at Fairview and later in Edmonton. He was Flight Lieutenant then squadron leader in the war. He married Sara Kennedy also of Sunny Bank and they have four children.

George Harry Letts passed away in 1957 and his wife Alice in 1970 both in Westlock Hospital.

Nelson Letts lives on the original Thomas Letts farm. Dorothy and Orton Stephens live on the original G. H. Letts farm at Sunny Bank and Dr. Blake Letts live on an acreage in North Edmonton.

## **Lindy and Marie Lindahl**

**by Esther Loree**

Sven Albin Lindahl, known affectionately to everyone in the Westlock area as "Lindy", was born in 1902 near Urshult, in the province of Smaland, in Sweden.

An old Swedish legend has it that when God was creating the world, Saint Peter pleaded that he be allowed to create part of Smaland all by himself. God consented, and Saint Peter, in his lack of experience, created such a poor and difficult land that God was

distressed. "Don't be so grieved, God," said St. Peter. "I will create special people who can till the swamps and break up fields from the stone hills."

"No!" said God. "The Smalander I will create myself!"



"Lindy" and Marie Lindahl in 1959, on board ship en route from San Francisco to Honolulu.

So, according to the legend, "God created the Smalander, and made him quick-witted, contented, happy, thrifty, enterprising and capable."

The Lindy we knew in Westlock was abundantly blessed with all these qualities.

Lindy's parents lived between a river and a lake, and, as a lad, he had to row across the lake to get to school.

He used to tell how one of his teachers had a hook in place of her left hand — a hook that came in handy for rapping noisy children across the head.

As a young man, in 1927, Lindy joined the ranks of hundreds of young Swedes who had to leave their

homeland to seek employment abroad. As he stood on the deck of the ship, looking backward, he thought to himself, "I'm disappointed in you, Sweden, that you couldn't provide a livelihood for your sons."

Lindy's destination was the home of his aunt, Mrs. O. M. Anderson, who lived at Meeting Creek, Alberta. He worked at first on Mardon Ranch, where, besides other duties, he had to milk several cows twice a day. Later, he was among thirteen Swedes who were hired to make railroad ties at Peers. The best he could do at first was seven ties per day. At 12½¢ per tie, this hardly covered his board. Tripling his efforts, he finally managed to do twenty-one per day.



Mr. Lindahl and Norman Miller at the opening of Lindahl's Foods, 1965.

Following this, he was employed in a general store owned by two Danes, Peterson Brothers, in Meeting Creek. This was the beginning of Lindy's successful lifelong career in the merchandising business. From there, he was hired by the Nu-Way chain of stores. He worked first at their Castor store and eventually was transferred to Innisfree, as manager.

It was at Innisfree that Lindy met Marie Miller, the girl who was destined to become his wife.

Marie was born on a farm near Arthur, Ontario, the second of seven children of Louis and Caroline Miller. When she was still a baby, her folks moved to Edmonton. She began her education at Sacred Heart School, taking the streetcar from their home north of Alberta Avenue, but walking home. Sometimes on the way home the children would hitch a ride on the back of the iceman's wagon, and marvel at the huge tongs used to carry the big blocks to kitchen ice-boxes.

After some years of city life, Marie's folks moved to a farm in the Strome area. Transferring from a big city school, with one grade per teacher, to the one-room Wavy Lake School, was quite a shock to Marie.

Her first teacher there was a seventeen-year-old girl. "Our days were spent almost entirely in singing and reading," says Marie.

Marie smiles as she recalls the day she ran away from that school. She and her younger sister Veronica had dresses that were identical except for length, Marie's being longer because she was taller. In a hurry that morning, Marie had put on the shorter dress by mistake. This didn't bother her much until the teacher warned the children that the inspector was going to come that day. Terrified lest the dreaded visitor should see her in the short dress, Marie, panic-stricken, made a bee-line for home on foot, three and a half miles away!

In time, the family moved to a farm closer to Strome. Here Marie attended Amity School, and later took her High School grades in town.



The Pembina River in flood in June 1944. This photo by "Lindy" shows two of the sailors who helped him to take supplies to stranded farmers.

Marie's first employment was with Hamilton and Watson General Store in Strome, then at J. J. Tiffin's in Provost, and from there the Nu-Way Store in Innisfree, which was under the management of "Lindy" Lindahl.

In 1932 Lindy was transferred to Westlock as manager of the Nu-Way Store there. He soon became involved in the community, joining the first Westlock Lions' Club, and promoting sports. He also became a life member of the local Elks Club, and was an original member of the Lay Advisory Board of the Immaculata Hospital, a position he held until he died.

He and Marie were married, making their first home at 9912-104 St., where Raymond Finnegan now lives. Their next-door neighbors were the late Stuart and Bea Crone. Marie tells how she and Bea together bought and shared a manual floor polisher, a contraption made of two padded bricks, with a handle that worked both ways.

In 1939, Lindy and Marie left this "sweet little



nest" for a larger home on 105 Street, and this became their permanent residence.

During these years Lindy was rapidly building up the business, with Marie helping to manage the dry goods and ready-to-wear departments. Lindy's outstanding business acumen enabled him to select and train a fine group of hard-working, conscientious partners. In 1937, Norman Miller, Marie's brother, joined the staff and became manager of the grocery department.

It was in June of 1944 that Lindy became known as "Santa Claus" to many desperate farmers in the Pembina River flood plain stretching from Manola to Jarvie. With the help of a twelve-sailor rowboat sent out on a rescue mission by the Navy from the "Non Such" in Edmonton, Lindy delivered all kinds of emergency foodstuffs from his store to the farm folk who were stranded.

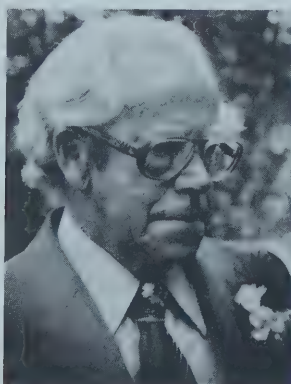
In George Hoke's article describing that incident we read: "Mr. Lindahl's generous gesture of compassion for those of us in trouble was something I, and I think many others, have never forgotten."

In 1946 Lindy purchased a half interest in the Nu-Way Store and the name was changed to "Lindahl and Company".

In 1952 came the big decision to drop the dry-goods and footwear and become "Lindahl's Supermarket", the first self-serve supermarket in Northern Alberta. The general atmosphere of the store didn't change however. It retained its folksy, friendly, small-town flavor. In his person, Lindy contributed to that atmosphere. He and many of his regular customers went back a long way together.

Another major step forward was taken in 1965, when "Lindahl's Foods" moved to its newly-built premises on 107 St., with Norman Miller as manager, a position he held until his retirement in 1982, at which time he and his wife Dorothy took up residence in Edmonton.

Gerald Fehleley and Norman's son, Glen Miller, are present owners of the store.



"Lindy" Lindahl

Gerald applied for work at Lindahl's before he was twelve years old. He came with his bicycle to deliver groceries, and among other jobs, to unpack farmers' dairy butter and "humpty-dumpty" twelve-dozen crates of eggs. That was more than forty years ago and he is still a familiar figure around there. He is now president of the firm, with Glen Miller as first vice-president.

Although Lindy and Marie worked hard to build up a flourishing business, they had many other interests. With Norman at the helm, they had more time for two of their favorite pastimes, travel and photography. They were always more than willing to share their many trips, Lindy by showing his films to various clubs or groups, and Marie by modelling the traditional costumes of the countries visited, and showing interesting souvenirs they had brought home.

The Grade Five pupils and their teachers were especially lucky, for, as a culmination to their yearly enterprise on Alberta, they would be treated to a showing of Lindy's Alberta movie, which featured action scenes from one end of the province to the other.

Both Lindy and Marie were involved in the Westlock Fair, particularly in the Fine Arts Department, working on planning committees and on setting up the displays of paintings and photographs on Fair Day.

Marie was one of the founding members of the Westlock Art Club, away back in the early 'sixties. Not only did she do very fine paintings herself, but she encouraged friends and members of her family in their artistic endeavors.

Lindy and Marie enjoyed Hawaii, and it was their custom in later year to spend most of the winter months there, returning to their home and their comfortable cottage at Long Island Lake for the rest of the year.

An end to this pleasant way of life came suddenly and sadly just before Christmas in 1978, when Lindy passed away at home at the age of 76.

That's more than four years ago now, but his presence is still keenly felt in Westlock. When pushing a cart down the aisles of his busy supermarket, one almost expects to meet him around one of the corners, for it was his custom to mingle with his customers and check on their well-being.

People using the swimming pool, wandering through the beautiful grounds around it, or just driving by, are ever mindful of the fact that the Lindahls provided the land for the pool site and the park. What a fine legacy Lindahl Park is for all of us! And Lindy's Brother Elks are doing a commendable job of maintaining and developing the area.



Norman Miller and Lindy in store on first Wacky Saturday.



Lindhals Annual Fair days Pancake Breakfast.

In a tribute to Lindy, delivered to his Brother Elks, Carl Muller stated in part: "He was one of a breed of men who come only occasionally into this world and stand tall among us . . . He assisted many individuals and groups over the rough roads of life, with his gentle hand always outstretched to help yet another . . . and he did it all without fanfare."

And Marie? Well, it is never easy to re-build a life after the loss of a spouse, but Marie is quietly doing just that, keeping up her attractive home, involving herself with family and friends, and continuing her work with the C.W.L., the Westlock Hospitals' Volunteers Association of which she is a life-long member, and St. Mary Roman Catholic Church.

Westlock is the richer for having known Lindy, and for the privilege of an ongoing association with Marie as a neighbor and friend.

The following is a bit of philosophy from Marie's collection of poems:

### Beauty in Common Things

If you keep your nose to the grindstone rough,  
And you keep it there just long enough,  
You'll find out there's no such thing  
As brooks that babble and birds that sing.

Author unknown

### Mr. R. A. (Bob) Logue

as told by his nephew Thomas Townsend

When I was four years old my parents left me, for a short holiday, with an Aunt and Uncle who lived about six (6) miles west of Pickardville on the south side of the Correction line. I remember little about the holiday except a visit to the Racine school where I was taken by Miss Anrahan, the school teacher who boarded with my Aunt and Uncle. At school I was placed in care of one of the pupils, Annie French. When Annie finished school she worked for a time for Mr. Fred Sampson who owned a store in Pickardville which was later to be named the Red & White store.

The Uncle was Bob Logue and the Aunt Mrs. Logue (nee Mary Ellen Holley) was my mother's older sister. Uncle Bob who came from Ireland, had homesteaded in the early days before World War I and by the time I started remembering things he and Aunt Mary had a nice home and farm buildings.

Their nearest neighbor was Mr. Fred Deschamp who lived across on the north side of the road. Immediately east of Bob Logue lived Mr. S. Courtney and across from him was Ged Ouellette's quarter on which was built the Racine school. The 5th Meridian ran north and south beside the school.

1949 Aunt Mary passed away and Uncle Bob decided to pay a visit to Ireland. He remained overseas and later remarried and settled in the city of Bristol, England.

### Charlie and Esther Loree

by Esther Loree

Charlie was twelve when he came west with his parents to Innisfree, and, like many a pioneer boy, he ran trap lines and he helped put meat on the table by snaring rabbits and by shooting wild fowl.

After going as far as he could in the one-room Loree School, he rode seven miles on horseback to Innisfree for High School. He dreamed of becoming a lawyer, but his father wouldn't support what he considered a nonsensical idea, so Charlie joined the army for World War I.

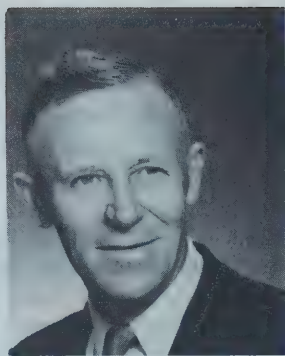
He suffered for four years in the mud and the horror of the trenches in France, and was awarded the Military Medal for Bravery at the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Returning to Canada with his English war bride,





Esther (Pritchard) Loree.



Charles Loree.

he took a homestead near his father's at Innisfree and farmed there until his wife's death. Her lungs had been damaged while she worked in a munitions factory in London during the war.

World War II broke out. Charlie again joined the army, but this time did not get overseas. After his discharge, he took a course in plumbing and started a shop in Westlock in 1946, when the village was being readied for its water and sewer system.

In Westlock, Charlie renewed his friendship with Esther Pritchard, whom he had met five years previously at the Loree boarding house. They were married the following year.

Esther was born at Rosalind, Alberta, where her Norwegian mother and Welsh father had settled on arrival from the Dakotas. When she was seven, they moved to a ranch south of Bruce, and for five years she practically "lived on horseback". After that, they moved to Edmonton, where she attended "Old Vic", and then Normal School in the old King Edward School, the one with the thrilling spiral-slide fire escape.

Her first school was Trail's End, southwest of Pickardville, where she had to teach forty-six children in grades one to nine.

The next job wasn't much easier, with every subject in grades seven to eleven at Dapp, but in both cases, associating with the wonderful children and their parents, and enjoying good times outside of school, made all the hard work worthwhile.

In 1937 Esther began teaching in Westlock, one of a staff of seven. The most enjoyable aspect of her work was probably leading children into the pleasure of singing and playing in harmony, and she always had a school orchestra until she became too busy at home to teach music.

The rest of Esther's teaching career was in Westlock, except for the four years on leave of absence in the Air Force, where she was teaching Aircraft Recognition, chiefly to Wireless Air Gunners from New Zealand, and Air Bombers from Britain. Most of this

was done at Dafoe, Saskatchewan, and Rivers, Manitoba.

A year after returning to Westlock, she married Charlie Loree. A son Jack and a daughter Jean were born to them. Both children had the advantage of the excellent program offered by the Westlock School, especially in the Music and Sports Departments.

Both Jack and Jean are still actively involved in music.

Jack is a Supervising Engineer with Mobil Oil. He and his wife, the former Sharon Diamond of Edmonton, live in Drayton Valley. They have a son Kelly and a daughter Jennifer, being born in 1974 and 1976 respectively.

Jean, now Mrs. Jim Runyon of St. Albert, teaches Physical Education in Edmonton. Her husband, a P.W.A. pilot, is the son of Betty (Hunter) Runyon who grew up in Westlock, the daughter of Jimmy and Libby Hunter. Jimmy Hunter operated a hardware and a mortuary here for many years.

Charlie Loree died in 1973, leaving Esther the only member of the family still living in Westlock.

She is enjoying her retirement after teaching for forty-one years and then reporting for the Westlock News for two years. She still enjoys music, playing tenor banjo twice a week with the Rambling Seniors of Edmonton and mandolin-banjo with the Harmony Belles of Westlock, and writing out music for both bands. When she can find time, she likes to paint and to travel.

### **Lawrence and Pearl Loree by Esther Loree, their sister-in-law**

In about 1907, one John Mitchell Loree, descended from the Huguenots, brought his wife and two of his sons, Charlie and Worthy, from Grand Valley, Ontario, to a homestead north of Innisfree, Alberta. Soon afterwards, his oldest son Lawrence came west with his wife Pearl, and homesteaded near his father.

In the mid twenties, Lawrence and Pearl and their daughter Peggy moved to Westlock, where Lawrence bought SW 8-60-26-W4 just about a mile north of Westlock on the old Pibroch road. The place is now owned by William J. Kallal.

Lawrence soon became known for his ability to act as floor manager at dances, calling squares and circle twosteps, etc., and getting everyone up on the floor. Meanwhile, Pearl made a name for herself as a very fine cook.

During these years, Peggy, christened Gladys Marguerite, was attending High School in Westlock.

In the mid thirties, they bought the Rad Brown place in Westlock. This place just suited them. There was a big house to accommodate as many as seven



Jim and Peggy (Loree) Slater.

boarders, and in the back yard, a barn, a pump and a water trough, just what Lawrence needed to operate a dray business. (The barn has disappeared, but the house, at 9923-104 Street, is well kept by Mr. and Mrs. Russell Moore.)

Soon Lawrence was hitching up his team at 4:30 a.m. to haul mail bags and cream cans to and from the early passenger train from the north, and then to cart all manner of supplies around the town.

It didn't take Pearl long to fill the rooms with boarders, a mixture of store clerks, mechanics, teachers, bank boys, nurses, creamery employees, etc. In those days there were very few housekeeping suites in small towns.

The boarders became very fond of "Ma" and "Pa" Loree, as they affectionately called them, and before long Lawrence and Pearl were called that by many of the townfolk.

It was quite a boarding house. The young fellows took great delight in teasing Pearl, but she took it all with a giggle, pretending to "bawl them out" severely.

One day Pearl bought a fridge, and had a wonderful time filling it up just so. Next morning, what did she awake to find but half her food set on the floor to make room for several cases of beer brought in by "those darned bank boys"! It didn't happen again!

One of Pearl's hired girls always had a quick witty comeback for the boarders' smart remarks, but she went a little too far once. Two of them carried the screaming girl out to the pump and drenched her head with cold water!

Then there was the evening Garnet Wilson stopped, as he was leaving the supper table, to dip his fingers into the bowl of stewed prunes for just one more prune. "O.K. for you!" said Pearl firmly. "Now you'll have to eat every one of those prunes before you get another bite of any other dessert!" She



Lawrence and Pearl Loree.

meant it. For the remainder of the week, while the rest of us enjoyed Pearl's delicious pies and puddings, poor Garnet had nothing but prunes, twice a day!

Then came World War II. Several of the boarders joined up, and Ma and Pa grieved like natural parents when some of them were killed in action.

Two of the boarders who did come back from the war were Esther Pritchard, a Westlock teacher who had spent four years in the R.C.A.F., and Charlie Loree, Lawrence's brother, who had served in the army. More about them later.

Lawrence and Pearl spent their last years in Edmonton. Pearl finally became a patient at Allen Gray Auxiliary, while Lawrence had to stay at Hardisty Nursing Home. It was said that they could not live together till the end, but, every single day, Lawrence took a cab over to the Allen Gray to spend the afternoon with his Pearl. She, in her weakened state of mind and body, happily believed that Lawrence lived there too, "just down the hall".

Lawrence died in 1974 at the age of 88, and Pearl followed two months later.

And what of their daughter Peggy? Well, after working as a doctor's receptionist for a time, she married Jim Slater, and they lived in Edmonton.

Jim and Peggy had one daughter, now Mrs. Dennis (Donna) Sutherland, who has excelled as a jazz ballet dancer and teacher.

Peggy worked for many years for Calgary Power. She died just a year after she retired. Her husband had died a few years earlier.



## The Family of Albert Lyons Jr.

Albert is the son of Christina and Albert Lyons, known locally as Tena and Bert Lyons. Dorothy is the daughter of Nelson and Agnes Letts. Both of these families were pioneers of the Westlock District.

After completing High School in Westlock in 1946 Albert started farming with his Father. The romance with Dorothy started while riding the old Hazel Bluff school bus with its stock racks on the sides and canvas roof and side flaps.



Albert and Dorothy Lyons and Family. Back row: Virginia and Judy. Front row: Albert, Norma, Margaret, Harold, Dorothy.

They were married in 1948 and settled on the family farm. They had five children Judy, Virginia, Margaret Anne, Harold and Norma.

Farming was changing rapidly and finally the day came when horses were no longer needed on the farm except for pleasure. The first truck was purchased in 1952. It was a great convenience for moving cattle to market and hauling the grain at harvest time. 'Old Blue' was used until 1981.

Albert and Dorothy found that working together to do the field work was the only way to farm. They and their family did their share of pioneering. Some of the land they purchased had to be cleared and broken. Each summer there would be a root picking project. Though much of the help came from the family, each summer Albert would hire students to help with the fencing, haying and stone picking.

The Grandparents were always there to be with the children and close ties between them developed. Grandma was more than willing to sew on a button, mend a sock, knit a pair of warm mitts or apply a

bandaid when necessary. Grandpa Bert had endless patience with the children and spent hours chatting with them as they accompanied him around the yard on his building and maintenance projects. As he grew older and often forgot where he had placed his tools, Harold was there and found them for him.

Albert has always been a cattleman and raised commercial cattle for slaughter. He kept the quality high by purchasing bulls from local purebred herds. In spite of the ups and downs in the market he stayed with the beef, though he often expressed disappointment when he had finished a nice group of animals and the buyers were not interested in them.

Dorothy recalls getting to High School was an exciting venture. For the first two years she and her brother Jim travelled four miles to Sunnybank High School using a horse and cutter in the winter and horse-back or buggy in the summer. Run aways with the horse were not uncommon and except for a few spills no one ever got hurt, perhaps it was just Jim's way of speeding up the journey. The last two years they drove to Hazel Bluff Church and caught the bus for Westlock leaving the horse in the church stable for the day. During the coldest part of the winter they lived in one of Westlock's first mobile homes. It was a cook house set on wagons wheels and used by Nelson Letts' threshing crew in the fall. Though the water pail was often frozen in the morning this little house served the purpose and Dorothy went on to be a teacher and Jim a Psychiatrist. The Walter Houghs provided the space and electricity for the mobile home and also many cups of hot chocolate for the tenants.



Albert and Dorothy Lyons and Family.

Family gatherings and church activities were always important events to the Lyons Family. Grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins would gather for Christmases, birthdays and anniversary celebra-

tions. The Lyons also had an extended family of young people who stayed for a short periods, and long ones, to go to school or help on the farm; among these were exchange students from overseas.

They have been members of Westlock Gospel Chapel since it was built in 1949.

Both Albert and Dorothy greatly appreciate the foresight of their families to come and settle here so that they could have this great opportunity of living, working and raising their family in this community.

## Albert (Bert) Lyons

by Christina Lyons

Albert Lyons, familiarly known as "Bert" was born at Carr, Ontario on June 9, 1888. He apprenticed and learned the carpenter trade. He came to Pembina in 1906 and took up a homestead at Hazel Bluff. While proving his homestead he worked part time with a surveying crew, and part time building grain elevators.



Bert and Tena Lyons and four children: Margaret and Mac Cameron, Albert and Beth Lyons.

Two children were born from this union, Albert, born in 1928 and Beth, born in 1936. Albert married Dorothy Letts in December of 1948, and they have a family of four girls and a boy.

Beth married Park Letts of Sunnybank and their family consists of one girl and two boys.

The last years of Bert's life were spent part time in hospital or Nursing Home as his health was such that he had to have nursing care. He died in April 1974 from cancer.

## The Fred Lyons Family

by Phoebe Lyons

Fred Lyons was born in Carr, Ontario on June 16, 1891. He went to work in logging camps at an early age, and came West on the Harvest Excursion in the fall of 1911. He worked in Southern Alberta that harvest and then came to Westlock later and filed on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -22-60-27-W4 in the Sunnybank District, Fred built a shack on his homestead and stayed there in the winter. He hauled logs and posts many miles to build his barns and fences. He cleared land and did some breaking on his farm and he also did custom breaking with his horses and plow.

Fred was known to get up early in the mornings, and after he had some cattle and hogs, the neighbors said they could hear him for half a mile, calling his stock to come for their feed.



Will and Christina (Tina) Cameron's wedding picture, January 1918.

He served overseas in World War I. On returning to Canada in 1919 he bought his brother, Will's, homestead and farming equipment through the Soldier Settlement Board and became a full time farmer.

In 1926 he married Mrs. Christina Cameron, who had two children, Mac and Margaret.

In 1952 he had a severe heart attack, and had to retire from all hard work. He spent his winters in Powell River with a brother.





Fred and Phoebe Lyons' 50th Wedding Anniversary, November 30, 1971. Bill, Kathleen, Caroline, Betty Rose, and Danny. Phoebe and Fred in front.

A little later he bought another quarter of land across the road from his homestead, the SE¼-21-60-27-W4. The house that was on the new land was better than his shack, so he moved it on to his homestead.

Fred married Phoebe MacDougall in the fall of 1921. They lived on in the Sunnybank District and raised their family there, as Fred loved the farm. In 1961 they sold their land to their youngest son, Danny, bought a house in town and retired into Westlock.

Fred and Phoebe had a family of three girls and two boys. Kathleen, a secretary, married John Ebeling in 1944. They live in Edmonton and have a family



The Fred Lyons family. R to L, back row: Caroline, Jim, Elaine, Danny, Loretta, Bill, Evan and Betty Rose. Front row: John, Phoebe, Kathleen. 1981.

of two girls and one boy. Caroline, a nurse, married Dr. Jim Letts in 1951. They live in Calgary and have a family of three girls and one boy. Bill, a farmer, married Loretta McMann in 1955. They live on a farm in the Westlock District with their family of one girl and a boy. Betty Rose, a nurse, married Evan Roberts in 1957. They also live in the Westlock District. Here they are raising two sons and two daughters. Still living on the family farm is Danny, who married Elaine Lardner in 1957. They have a girl and three boys.

After his retirement Fred loved to drive through the farming area around Westlock, and spent many days fishing at nearby lakes and the Pembina River. He also liked to stop in and visit friends on his travels, especially oldtimers in the district.

Fred Lyons passed away in September, 1978. His family decided his collection of Wild Alberta Birds, which he had stuffed and mounted himself, should be donated to the Pembina Lodge, where they can be seen on display in a glass case.

His wife, Phoebe, lived on in their Westlock home until the spring of 1981, when she moved into an apartment. She retired after twenty years of service in the Salvation Army Rural Service Unit in the fall of 1981, so as to be able to devote more time to visitation. Phoebe was honored to be chosen as Westlock's "Volunteer of the Year" for 1982. She continues to keep busy with her handiwork, volunteer work and hospital visitation.

### **William and Bella Lyons Family compiled to the best of our ability by Margaret, George and Marion**

William was born in Delhi, Ontario in 1882 and came west at a very early age. He drove horses in a circus, and eight mules while harvesting in Kalispell, Montana, around the turn of the century. After this he went back to Ontario to work for a brother-in-law in a livery barn. Around 1908 or 1909 he came to Edmonton where he ran a dray business hauling coal from the south side of the river over a ferry and up the McDougall hill. He also freighted up the old Landing Trail to Athabasca, one winter. After this he came to Sunnibank with his sister Maggie and nephew Sanford Sawyer to assist them in homesteading there. There he met his future wife, Bella McDougall; she was born in Arnprior, Ontario in 1893 and had immigrated west with her family in 1899. After a year's courtship, they were married in August, 1912.

One summer they lived in a tent on the North Saskatchewan River flats, where they bought meat from Jimmy Murfitt. In 1908 they homesteaded one mile east and one mile north of the Hazel Bluff church where a nephew still resides. As well as



Wedding picture of William Lyons. Back row: Dan MacDougall, Mrs. MacDougall and Rev. Lloyd. Seated: Sanford Sawyer, Wm. Lyons, Bella MacDougall, Teenie MacDougall, in front of MacDougall home.

raising her family and being a busy farm wife, Bella was an active worker in many organizations. She was superintendant and teacher in the Sunday School at Hazel Bluff United Church for a number of years, also president of Hazel Bluff U.C.W. While living in Westlock from 1949 to 1978, she took an active part in the Westlock United Church U.C.W. and in the Sunday School. Also, Bella was a member of the U.F.W.A from the time it was formed. She also was one of the founding members of the Salvation Army work in Westlock. They had seven children. William died in 1938. Bella died in 1978.

Margaret married Bob Wright; their only daughter, Patricia, married Bill Pusch and they all live in Calgary. Patricia and Bill had three children, two girls and a boy. Their oldest girl, Pamela, was killed



William and Bella Lyons family. Back row: William and Bella. L to R: Marian, Phoebe, George, Jean, Margaret, Art. In front Don.

in a car accident in 1982. Robert and Heather both live in Calgary.

George married Anne Zadunski and they have two daughters. George and Anne still live in Westlock. Karen is married to Dr. Howard Rumball. They have a son Jeff, and a daughter Wanda and live in Peace River. Linda is living in Edmonton.

Jean married Elmer Day and they still reside in Westlock. Their daughter Carol is married to Tom Sydnies and they live in Vancouver with their four children Kathy, Donald, Glen and Jennifer. Their son Bill is married to Hilda Lentz and they live in Toronto with their children Tammy and Daryl.

Marion is married to Bill Cratchley and they live in Powell River, B.C.

Phebe married Deisel Parsons but died in 1975. Their daughter, Diane married Marvin Wiedrick and live with their three children Jim, John and Janelle in Grimshaw. Their older son, Charles, married Marilyn Bielert and they live in Barrhead with their son Jeffrey. Phebe and Deisel's younger son, Fred, also lives in Barrhead. Arthur is married to Irma Breadner and they live in the Westlock district. They have three daughters and two sons.

Lea married Mike Plandowski and they have two daughters Shzan and Zha Zha and live at Lamont. Beatrice is married to Larry Felker. They live at Beaver Creek, Yukon with their three children Sean, Cassandra and Skye. Robert is married to Teneke Akkerman and they live in Vancouver with their two sons, Anthony and David. Betty is married to Harm Gerrits. They live in Grand Prairie with their daughter Karra Lee and son Kevin. Sandy is married to Gaileen Hoke and they live in Edmonton.

Donald is married to Mona Smith and they live in the Westlock district with their sons Andy and Karl. Their daughter Lori lives in Westlock. Their older daughter Rosalie is married to Dave Jones and they live in Swan Hills with their four children Laurie, James, Angela and Janice.

**Alvah Henry (Mac) MacCabe**  
written by Jean and Grace

Sometime in the spring of the year 1927 shortly after their marriage, Mac and Marie (nee Persson) settled on the NW of 12 T60 R27 two miles west and one and one-half miles north of Westlock. This quarter had a pond, was covered with heavy spruce bush and had a creek running through it. In later years it was sold to the town of Westlock as a holding pit.

A two-room shack was erected which would become the family home. Two more small rooms were added later with the help of a neighbor, Alf Atkins.

Mac and Marie's first child was a son, Clifford Layton, born February 10, 1928. Two and one-



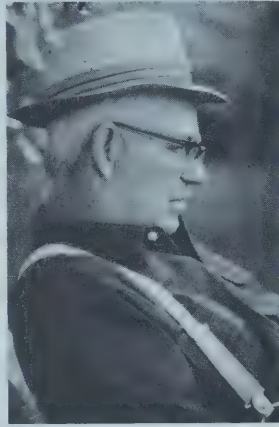
half years later Lillian Grace was born July 13, 1930 and four years later, August 4, 1934 another girl, Jean Margaret. Mac still only had one son. Nine years later, September 15, 1943 Gail Anne Eleanor was born. Thus our family was completed.

Being the hard working, resourceful man he was, Mac used many means to keep his family. One of them was cutting hundreds of cords of wood which he sold to the townsfolk.

Some of the more memorable days in our lives in



Mrs. Mac McCabe.



"Mac" McCabe.

those early years included when Arthur Stanley would come to butcher. We remember peeking through the corrals while the animals were killed and then finally hung with a block and tackle. Another exciting time was when the sawyers came. Oh, the smell of that new sawdust and the whine of the saw as we came closer to home from school. We knew there would be a special baking and lots of homemade buns and preserves for lunch and, or course, joviality among the crew.

With the threshing crew came the special excitement of carrying lunches to the field after school. We are quite sure our mother Marie didn't always consider it one of the romantic times we kids did. There was always good natured betting between the crew about who had the biggest loads or whose horses could reach the barn first at night. Les Hide owned the threshing machine and he also had a big police dog named "Casey". Every year he and our old dog "Niger" would get into several fights. We thought always that our dog had licked Casey, but when he lay in the shade for two days after, and Mom treated his wounds, we wondered. Long after, Niger lost his leg in the mowing machine, he still tried to beat old Casey.

When the Relief Camp was set up across the road from our farm these people played a big part in our

lives. Marie sold them butter, eggs, milk and honey. Naturally, this camp added about ten more kids to play with; enough as we recall to have good ball games and lots of good times at the old swimming hole. At this point we might mention the hot day we raced home for a swim after school. When we came out of the water our clothes had been hidden by Mike McRae and Weston Anderson.

With only one son the necessity arose for more help with the chores. Mom always helped with the milking, but after the fourth baby had arrived she found it was just too much. The ideal moment came one night when Grace and Jean were having a sisterly quarrel over the dishes. Mom sent us out to see who might be the best milker. Grace being of a meeker nature and somewhat shy of animals couldn't get a drop from "Old Blue". Jean, of the more fiery nature loved it, so the decision was easy. Grace was sent back in to make the lunches and the oatmeal in the mornings. To this day Jean will say Grace missed out on knowing what wonderful things there are to remember of those milking times. The long shadows from the lantern, the cattle chewing hay and the smells of that first milk in the pail.

Many delightful Sundays were spent at the home of our good friends the Alf Woods family some two miles away.

For many years Mac raised bees as a hobby and as a sugar supplement during the war years. We recall many times calling our dad in from the fields to capture another swarm.

Marie spent hours patching and mending and was always working on some project of fancy work. She always preserved all of our fruit, vegetables and meat for winter. One day each fall was set aside to bring in the potatoes (and it was always desperately cold). We all had to help fill at least one wagon load of potatoes which were transferred to the cellar below our home. Our father and mother did without many things, but we always had an abundance of good food.

As a young lad, Cliff was always bringing home owls, coyotes or magpies for pets. In the later years of his youth he will be remembered always as taking everyone to all the dances within thirty miles. Sometimes Dad said he was only home long enough to fill the gas tank.

Cliff married Joanne Logan in 1959. They have five children, Jack, Mary Anne, Barbara, Jennifer, Margaret and one granddaughter Jacquie, all of whom are living at home or in the Westlock area. Cliff farmed with Dad the three quarters they had acquired. Cliff had also done a lot of basements and brushing in the Westlock area. He can always be found at coffee time in one of the local coffee shops.

Grace married Woodrow Campbell in 1948. They

have five children and eight grandchildren. Dennis living in Edmonton sells computer printouts. Vince married Anne Hughes and has two children and is in the building construction business in Edmonton. Jim married Laurie Keneally, has four children, lives in Lamont and works as a shift coordinator for Shell Oil.

Dianne married Roger Shefler and has two children. Dianne works in the Nova Scotia bank in Westlock. Her husband does carpenter work.

Laurel, the youngest, is a Systems Analyst in Edmonton and plans to marry Rick Farrell in 1984.

Grace and Woodrow have been very active in the Hazel Bluff Community and Church. They farmed until 1981 when they retired on their farm acreage.

Jean married Lee Walton in 1952. They had the Imperial Oil bulk agency in Pibroch for five years. Both of their children were born in Westlock and they then moved to Edmonton. Jean is an Office Manager for Woodward's. Lee is a credit collection supervisor for N.T.C.D. Besides their two children they have three grandchildren. Their son Brian has his M.Sc. and works with Alberta Agriculture Market Development. He is married to Joan Roberts and has two children. Jacquie is married to Rick Mullan, a school teacher. They have one daughter and Jacquie works with the Toronto Dominion Bank.

Gail, the only one in the MacCabe family who furthered her education, has her nursing degree. Gail is married to Dr. Clive Terner who is involved in research. They have one son, Lance in Grade 12. Gail is a supervisor with Alberta Health Care. Gail and Clive are racing enthusiasts and have captured many trophies with their formula Ford Sports car.

In 1953 Mac and Marie built a new home on a quarter of land on the Picardville road where Mac still resides.

Those early years on the farm were such hard times of work and worry for our parents. We four children knew very little of this aspect and are able to look back on those days as such very happy times however simple they were. Our lives were saddened on August 27, 1977 when our mother passed away at age 74. Mac just retired from active farming in 1982 at age 86. He is an active Masonic Lodge member where he is known for his home baked beans and his contribution on the sick visiting committee. He is retiring to the new lodge when it opens this fall (1983).

## **The MacDougall Family** by Christina Lyons

Daniel MacDougall was born at Alva, Clackmannan, Scotland, on April 26, 1856. His wife,



Mr. and Mrs. Dan MacDougall.

Elizabeth Burns McCarter was born at Arnprior, Ontario, March 24, 1863.

In 1883 Dan immigrated to Canada to work as a weaver in his Uncle's Woolen Mills at Almonte, Ontario. Lizzie McCarter was also employed at these mills, and after a lengthy courtship, they were married in 1892 and lived at Rosebank, a suburb of Almonte, for several years. Bella, Mac, Jennie and Tena were born there.

The mills closed in 1900 and the family came by train to Edmonton. Dan filed on a homestead of forty acres in Salisbury, now known as Sherwood Park. They lived on the farm until 1905 and it was during this time that Alice and Phoebe were born.



MacDougall family. Back row: Jennie, Tina, Phoebe. Front row: Mac, May and Bella.



In June, 1905 the family moved to Pembina by covered wagons, bringing with them a few head of cattle. At this time, Dan filed on a 160 acre homestead, but had to pay One Dollar an acre for the land as he had already used his homestead rights. They retired in 1919, when their son Mac returned from service in World War I, and bought the home farm. They lived in the Riverdale District on various farms, until their deaths. Dan died December 10, 1943 and Mrs. MacDougall on February 1, 1954.

## The MacDougall Family by Mary Gray

The Daniel MacDougall family homesteaded in the Westlock District in 1905, coming from Clover Bar, and Ontario with their six children: Bella, Mac, Jennie, Tena, Alice and Phoebe.



May and Mac MacDougall.

After being seriously wounded in the first World War, Mac returned home from overseas and purchased the farm from his father. On May 21, 1919, Mac married Marian Adkins, who had come to the Westlock District with her family in 1906. Mac and Mae had six children: Betty, Mary, Lilian, Janet, Dorothy and John.

Mac (my Dad) was a trustee of the Riverdale School Board, and mother belonged to the W.A. of the Hazel Bluff Church. They lived on the farm until 1959, when they sold the family farm and moved into Westlock. In 1969 they moved into the Pembina Lodge in Westlock. Dad passed away April 21, 1971, and Mother passed away November 7, 1972.

In 1942 Betty married Oswald Parker and they had two children, Ron and Janet. Ron and his wife Merlyn, live in Barrhead. Janet and Owen and their children, Micheal and Christine, are living in the Pibroch District. After Ossie's death, Betty married Dick Adkins, and their two sons are Chris, who lives in Vancouver, and Jack, who is in Edmonton. Betty passed away at the Pembina Lodge on January 7, 1982.



M. MacDougall family. Back: Betty, Lil, Janet, Mary. Front: John, May, Mac, Dorothy.



M. MacDougall family 1932. Standing: Lil and Mary. Seated: Janet, Dorothy, Betty and baby John.

In 1952, Mary married Nin Gray. They reside in Edmonton.

Lilian married Clyde Gault in 1949 and they have one son, Bill, who is married to Barbara Gerig and they have a little girl, Tricia. Both families reside in Westlock.

Janet was a graduate from the Royal Alexandra School of Nursing. For the past twenty-five years she

has been a medical missionary in the Chad. The first year there, she spent learning the African dialect of the people with whom she works. The next year she operated a dispensary to care for the sick. Now Thomas, an African nurse, looks after the dispensary and Janet is busy training African women to be midwives to work in the maternity hospital that was built for her about ten years ago.

Dorothy married Ted Guest. They have two daughters, Kelly and Shirley. They live in Edmonton, also.

John married Phyllis Lardner on April 6, 1957. They have four children; Leona, Linda, Chuck and Jim. They still reside on the family farm, the original homestead of Daniel MacDougall.

## **The Pioneering MacGregor Family**

**by Dick Adkins**

When the Indians of the north rode by bus to our capital city to try to have living conditions improved by protest, my mind wandered back to when our present century was but half a dozen years old.

A widow with a family of six homesteaded one mile west and a half mile north of our present town. This land is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Seskus today. The lady was Mrs. MacGregor and her family consisted of three boys, Murd, Alex and Simon, and three girls, Bella, Maggie and Lizzie. Fortunately, only Simon and Lizzie were of school age, but nevertheless, this pioneering woman must have had a lot of courage and determination to venture out in the wilderness. She knew she had to dig in and make the best of it as she did not have many tools to work with.

Alex had gone to Normal School and was a school teacher. He taught at the Edison school. The salary was four hundred dollars a year.

Murd homesteaded the farm north of the Bruce Sutherland farm, known now as the Wagner farm.

Alex homesteaded the farm Larry Clarahan has the feed lot on. Simon took up land at Pibroch.

Mrs. MacGregor's family married, except for Alex. He stayed home with his mother. Murd married Miss Beaton from Clyde. Bella married Jack Taylor, also from Clyde, both pioneers. Maggie married Jack McRae. Simon married Fern Swan and Lizzie married Kelly Davidson. Murd and Alex were really a credit to this district. Many settlers and inexperienced farmers came to them for advice.

Simon was one of the nine star baseball players on the team we were so proud of in the mid-twenties. Baseball was about the only recreation we had in those days. I would like to leave my story for a moment and recall the players' names. The catcher was Len Brock, pitcher Jim Adkins, first base Bo St. John. Other players were Don Stanton, Shorty Roch,

Johnny Dorcey, Bill Montgomery, Simon MacGregor, Miller and Bill Watt. This team played victoriously for three years. We very often hear the name of Clarence Campbell, the hockey president. Believe it or not, Clarence was playing ball for Westlock in the early twenties. He was a good catcher.

Simon had poor health soon after he reached middle age and was confined to hospital. Lizzie lost her life in a car accident while going to visit Simon in the hospital. Bella, Alex and Murd have all passed away, leaving Maggie (Mrs. Jack McRae) the only survivor of this pioneering family. The hardships of pioneering shortened the lives of this ever loving family. It is a shame they were not able to live and enjoy the luxuries we have today, but there are very few of the oldtimers fortunate enough to do so.

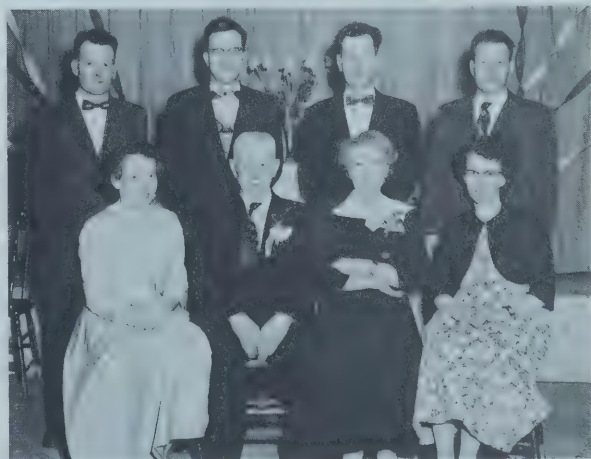
Two grandsons of Grannie MacGregor, Johnny McRae and Darcy MacGregor, two fine young men, paid the supreme sacrifice in World War II so that we might live in freedom.

## **The MacIntyre Family**

Angus MacIntyre and Flora Campbell were married on the first day of February, 1916, on the Isle of South Uist. This is an island of the Hebrides about a hundred miles off the north-west coast of Scotland. Four sons were born to them there: Ian on February 19, 1917; Alexander on February 10, 1919; John on November 5, 1920 and Neil on May 19, 1922.

There was not enough commerce or industry to support many people on this island, so most young people had to leave. Many of the young men went to sea, joined the armed forces or the police force, etc. The girls went to the mainland cities as domestics, nurses, teachers, etc.

Father and Mother, with their very great love of family, reasoned that if they were to keep their family



The McIntyre family — 1956.



together, they would emigrate to Canada and try their hand at farming. They left most of their friends and relatives behind and sailed for Canada on the "Marloch" on April 15, 1923, and landed at Saint John, New Brunswick on the first day of May. The immigrant families, after a long train ride, stopped at an Indian Residential School in Red Deer while the men went in search of land. Angus MacIntyre, Alex Campbell, Gilbert MacLellan and Neil MacNeil were brought to Westlock by a Soldiers' Settlement Board representative to look at some land.

On their first evening in Westlock they stopped at the George Guest garage, where the N.A.D.P. is today. To pass the time, Alex Campbell played some tunes on his bag pipes. Bob Jorgenson's mother, who was not feeling well, had gone to bed early. She called to her daughter, "Mary, help me get dressed. I hear the pipes; must be some immigrants. I must go and talk to them." And this she did, making them feel welcome indeed by speaking their own Gaelic language.

Angus MacIntyre purchased the NE¼-21-59-27-W4, six miles south west of Westlock, and the MacLellans and MacNeils settled near Pibroch, where their families joined them soon after. Two girls were born to the MacIntyres at home on the farm. Marion on May 19, 1924 and Penelope on July 6, 1925.

There were only about fifteen acres broken on the farm; most of the rest Dad cleared with the axe. Pop, as he was affectionately known, was light on his feet, a good dancer; he loved house parties and playing practical jokes on people. He worked hard all his life until his mother retired to Westlock in 1950. There were always cows to milk, cream to sell, pork and home cured bacon for the table, and lots of potatoes and vegetables from a large garden.

We got through the thirties without ever missing a meal and never did realize we were poor. Ours was a wonderfully happy family thriving on Mother's philosophy: do the best you can with what you have, maintain a cheerful outlook, have a firm belief in God and trust in Him, and you can achieve anything you set your mind to.

Mother made our socks and sweaters from the raw wool. On one occasion, when one of the boys lost his mitts, she sat down at the spinning wheel, and there was a pair ready for school the next morning. She was never idle, it seemed; she baked the bread, churned the butter, made soap, and quilted the bedding. She dearly loved to rest sitting down milking a cow and singing softly.

Later on, when we were in our teens, there were house parties with local artists providing the music for singing and dancing. There was baseball in the summer, hockey in the winter and skating on outside



The McIntyre family and some of their descendents.

natural ice. Although there was very little money, I feel that we had more fun than they do in today's fast paced society.

The Second World War broke out and this family was broken up like so many others in the district.

Ian enlisted in the army in 1940.

Alex in the airforce in 1941.

John joined the army in 1942 and Penny joined the airforce in 1943.

Ian served in Italy and northwest Europe and was severely wounded. He and his wife (Viola Crick) have eight children and still live on their farm near Westlock. Alex did his stint in England. He was married there to Joan Webster. He was injured and invalided home in 1945. They had a family of six and lived in Westlock. Alex passed away in 1978. John served in France and Germany with the Black Watch. He was wounded and received a citation, and was decorated with the French Croix de Guerre with a bronze star. He married Margaret MacLellan in Scotland. They have two boys and still own the original farm. Penny was with the airforce in different parts of Canada. She married George Kramps. They have a family of six and live in Edmonton. Neil married Dorothy Miller. They live in Sherwood Park and have a family of ten. Marion and Tom Williams were married and had a family of seven. Marion passed away in 1971.

Father passed away in 1968 at the age of 85. Mother passed away in 1971 at the age of 86. They died and were buried surrounded by the family they loved so much. They are laid to rest in the R.C. cemetery south of Westlock.

## **The MacLachlans Sr. by Kathleen MacLachlan**

John and Catherine MacLachlan were faced with

a decision — whether to emigrate to hot mineral-rich South Africa, or to cool temperate Canada. John Sr. and his eldest son, John, had returned from Africa, while their second son, George, who had taken a homestead in the Edison District in 1902, appeared to be coping quite well. Prospects of owning land in Scotland for any but the very wealthy were nil. Canada offered 160 acres for \$10.00. So, with the lure of cheap land, they chose Canada. They would join George.



George Miller, Mother Catherine MacL., Donald MacLachlan, 1912?

In 1905, John, Catherine, and sons, Stuart, Andrew, and Donald, left their tenement house on Clarendon Street, Partick, Glasgow, and sailed on the “Caledonia”, taking with them their personal possessions and household goods they imagined would be needed in their new home.

John was not able to obtain a homestead near that of George. So the family took up residence with George. The older boys, Stuart and Andrew had completed their educations in Scotland and could be of assistance in clearing the land, gardening, and the like, while Donald, aged 9, would still need some schooling.

John assumed a patriarchal role, and Catherine had her work-load to cook, wash, clean house, sew, patch and mend for five family males as well as numerous other bachelors who considered the MacLachlan household “home”.

From 1910 to 1916, John MacLachlan kept a daily diary of the family activities: brushing being done, crops planted, buildings being erected, temperatures, number of “stoppers” who stayed overnight, income and expenses of farm commodities, and social events in the community. These diaries have been preserved, and are valuable background for anyone interested in local doings of the period. Excerpts from the diaries give an idea of the type of New Year’s celebrations which took place in the early years:

“Monday, December 31, 1906 . . . Had New



John MacLachlan, 1912?

Year visit from Mr. and Mrs. Shutt, Mr. and Mrs. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, and Mr. Jones who with ourselves and Neil (Forbes) brought in 1907 singing Doxology. 32 below. January 1, 1907, Mr. and Mrs. Williams went home 4 a.m. We retired 5 a.m.

December 31, 1907 . . . Alex McGregor, Jack Taylor, and Eric Anderson called and stayed overnight to bring in the New Year (quiet one). Tuesday, December 31, 1908, 10 below. Stuart in Town. George at Eric Andersons 9 a.m. until afternoon. Visit from Eric Anderson, Alex McGregor, and Jack Taylor, who remained overnight to “bring in” the New Year.

January 21, 1909, George went to Morinville yesterday with Mr. and Mrs. D. Gray who had stayed with us since Christmas. At times it has been as low as 44 below.

January 1, 1910, New Year’s Day. John England remained all day. Mr. and Mrs. McKewen paid us a visit. George Miller entertained them with the bag-



pipes. John England danced the Highland Fling and the Sword Dance. In the evening the boys attended a concert in the Dungannon School. Alex Mitchell came in the evening. Also Mr. Houston came and remained until one in the morning. Temperature rose to 8 above. George went the long road to Gibsons.

December 31, 1910, Coldest day of the season — N. by N.W. wind, 20 below. A. Mitchell and Geo Miller came from Swallowhurst concert at 5 this morning. Teamsters left at 8 a.m. Boys all about house plucked one turkey and two chickens for New Year dinner, then everyone did his or her utmost to entertain one another until midnight.

January 1, 1911, New Year's Day, sky clear and frosty. 23 below. Visit from Wm. Woods, sister and friend on way to town. Also visit from Eric Anderson and Miss Kronjie. Mr. Bassitt came with boys from church, latter three remaining overnight.

December 31, 1911, weather continues cold — 14 below. John England came in afternoon, remaining to bring in Year, and was our "first foot".

January 1, 1912, George and Shoris (Geo) Miller into Morinville, and home again about 6 p.m. Visit from Eric Anderson, Mr. R. S. McKewen, Jamie Irvin with Roddick team. Stopper with two teams of oxen came in the evening. Oxen put in Neil's stable overnight. Weather milder 14 above.

December 31, 1912, George and Donnie about the house. A. Warren went to Clyde store, visit from L. Cornfield.

January 1, 1913, Visit from Mr. and Mrs. Knott, Mr. McKewen, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson with the baby, Neil and Mrs. Forbes, and Mr. Houston came in the afternoon. Mother got her New Year currant bun from Mrs. Watson, also parcel from Auntie Bannatyne — skirt, stockings, ties, etc.

December 31, 1913 . . . James Irvin came at night, brought in the New Year as usual, sitting up and trying to make merry. F. Baldwin came with school books. Got them audited. Mr. Weidrick came by to pay school taxes, having this day paid all taxes due district and having sold his farm and all other property for \$12.00. January 1, 1914, James Irvin went out and came in immediately after midnight, being our "first foot". In about 2 minutes after, John England came to first foot, having his hands full! Mr. O'Brien seemed to enjoy our peculiarities. Stuart and Jamie went to first foot at Neil's and came back again. Mr. and Mrs. Tainsh with Bobby came in the afternoon, also Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, and Mr. and Mrs. Forbes, each with their little babies, making a party of 20 to dinner and supper. I tried all I could to entertain them. Broke up at midnight. 8 above.

December 31, 1914, I was at Clyde all day taking stock in the store (Clyde Co-Op).

January 1, 1915, brought in the New Year singing, had Mary and Jamie along with our own family circle. In evening Mr. and Mrs. Knott and Henry came, then the Miller boys from Cromarty Farm. Mr. and Mrs. Forbes with baby, and then a sleigh load of 12 men and one lady from Pibroch. So that we had two tables, 12 at each table, and got three meals each person — all but the Knotts remaining until 6 a.m. We had a first class musical evening and dancing. December 31, 1915, George went to meet the train, and got H. and A. Miller only, and John England. About 7:30 p.m. Jamie Irvin and Alex Mitchell came. Wilsons, Don and Agnes Miller and Mrs. Miller of Pibroch, and also Mrs. John Roddick and Hugh Miller came. January 1, 1916, brought in the New Year singing the Doxology. We had John England for first foot. The Miller boys provided music, and the company danced and sang until daybreak, and they all seemed to enjoy themselves. Pibroch people left about 9 a.m. Stuart drove Miss Miloy to the station afternoon and she left for Calgary about one. Donald at the lake in the afternoon playing hockey match Clyde vs. Westlock — a draw one goal each. Mr. and Mrs. A. Roddick and family came before dark, also Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, then Mrs. Knott, Mrs. McFadzen, Miss Knott and Henry. All left before midnight except Miller boys and John England."

John MacLachlan had many activities and interests other than farming. He had had some bookkeeping and clerical experience in Scotland, and soon found himself auditing school secretarial books for all the districts for miles around. He was often called upon to draw up legal papers such as agreements for sale, and to act as secretary for local political meetings etc. He was also secretary for the Violet Hill School District.

On October 1, 1913, he received a letter from the Attorney General asking him to take the position of Justice of the Peace which Mr. Lucas was anxious to vacate prior to his leaving for England. He considered this invitation for some time, but did not accept until March, 1914. His first case involved a summons against a neighbor for non-payment of wages to an employee. The dispute arose around the defendant's having supplied drink to the plaintiff, and having the value of this deducted from his wages. The details and settlement of the case involved a day and a half of John MacLachlan's time and, in his own words "for \$1.00 and bad feelings on both sides". He was called upon by the R.N.W.M.P. to issue summonses for theft, libel, defamation of character, assault, neglect of children and wives, trespassing, cruelty to animals, infractions of game laws, and, during the war years, prosecution of Aliens having firearms. But by

far the most common complaints were to recover unpaid wages, probably the result of parties concerned not keeping careful books or not writing down anything at all. Making out the summonses, having them delivered, and consultations with the Police constables was time consuming and required countless trips to the barracks at Clyde.

It seemed that neighbors were frequently taking other neighbors to court. Some involvements which come to mind are: theft of a cowbell and strap; theft of a load of hay; theft of a coat and some sacks; a dog biting a neighbor's pig; shooting a moose on Sunday (Lord's Day Act — fine \$50.00); husband suing wife for slander and defamation of character (she later left him and he wanted her back); supplying liquor to a person who is interdicted; drunk and disorderly conduct. Most convictions carried a fine of \$10.00 and costs, but many required 30 days with hard labor!

One case of cruelty to animals brought nothing but grief to the Justice of the Peace. A complaint had been made and summons issued against an individual for cruelty to his mule. The animal, reduced to "skin and bones" from lack of feed and care, was compelled to pull the family buggy to town when its strength barely permitted it to walk. The case was tried, and the driver found guilty and "sent down" for 30 days. The Justice of the Peace deemed it kindest to put the poor beast out of its misery, and ordered it to be shot. Corporal Henricksen carried out the order. In the meantime a relative of the offender appeared, stating that he was the owner of the mule which thus had been unlawfully destroyed. He claimed damages in the amount of the value of the animal, and took his claim to the Attorney-General's Department, which in turn, pressed for payment to the owner jointly by the policeman and the J. P. Much correspondence between the Department and the defendants took place during the next few months — the Department adamant that the plaintiff should be paid. In the interval, Corporal Henricksen, having left the Force to go Overseas "to the Front" lost his life on the "Lusitania." So he was beyond restitution, and John MacLachlan, tired of the whole harangue, paid the claim!

John MacLachlan had been associated with co-operatives in Scotland. He and many other farmers and residents of Clyde decided to form a co-operative general store with capital obtained from individual shareholders at a minimum of \$5.00 per share. They rented the ground floor of the Olsen building, and, on November 21, 1914, the Clyde Co-Operative Association opened for business, with Mr. Alf Parton as manager, and John MacLachlan and some others as Board of Directors. For some time the venture prospered. The First World War was on, and times were

"hard", local competition from well-established merchants was keen, there were some squabbles among shareholders and directors, and finally, Mr. Parton resigned in December, 1915. A new-comer in the district, Mr. Middlemiss took the job, and the Co-Op tentatively decided to buy the building from K. Olsen for \$1,500, payments to be made over a period of 5 years. The arrangement did not work out, Mr. Middlemiss resigned, and the store was left again without a manager. John MacLachlan took over the position, but it was short-lived. The Bank's refusal to grant loans for current expenditures, the Wholesalers' reluctance to send out orders "on credit" caused the Association "to fold" in June, 1916. John MacLachlan had the unpleasant task of winding up the assets and paying out the shareholders.

MacLachlans were staunch Liberals, and took an active part in election campaigns, and organizing local associations such as the one formed at Hazel Bluff on December 13, 1915, when the Hon. Chas. Stewart, and the Hon. Frank Oliver were speakers. John MacLachlan acted as Deputy Returning Officer in the Clyde district for the plebiscite on the liquor question, July 21, 1915, which went 56 votes for "dry" and 38 for "wet". He felt honored to be Frank Oliver's guest at dinner at the Clyde Hotel, on June 26, 1915.

Catherine MacLachlan was both the unquestioned queen and the slave of her kitchen. Besides preparing meals for her own five men she was "mother" to bachelor friends who checked in at any time. Most frequent among these were the Miller boys, Neil Forbes, the Irvines of Pibroch, the Roddicks, the Mitchells, John England and many others. It may be stated that the friends also helped with any outdoor work which was on the agenda. In addition there were "stoppers", persons passing on their way to Pembina, Westlock, Athabasca, the Paddle River, and such. Most needed overnight lodging and breakfast (25¢ was the usual rate for a meal, and another 25¢ for shelter and hay for their horses). So Catherine never knew how many she would have for any given meal. This did not phase her Scottish resourcefulness. There were always fresh scones and biscuits from the oven to the table.

On one occasion when she rose in the morning, she found 30 stoppers in their travelling blankets bedded on the kitchen floor — one of whom was a negro. Frightened by the sight of a black man, she screamed and rubbed the bottom of her frying pan (cold iron to ward off evil — a Scottish superstition). Later, after overcoming her fright, she said the negro was "a fine man". Her daily bill of fare required lots of beef which she bought from local farmers who did their own killing and peddling. She raised her own



chickens, turkeys, and pigs. She churned her own butter, and sold surplus to local stores at 30¢ a pound. Eggs sold at 40¢ a dozen, and chickens at 13¢ a pound dressed weight.

In her gardening, she was assisted by Andrew and Donald. They raised bushels of potatoes which were placed in huge pits dug in the ground and covered to frost-proof depth. In the spring when the indoor supply from the cellar was finished they used these well-preserved ones from the pit.

In February, 1914, the boys made an ice-house, cut blocks of ice from Brad's Lake, and hauled sawdust from Johnny's mill for insulation. So another dimension was added to her cooking conveniences — cooled cream, the surplus to be shipped to the E. C. D. to bring in an added bit of income.

Catherine ministered to any of her "ailing" boys. On one occasion, George went to Johnny's mill to bring home Jim Irvin who had contracted pneumonia. She sat up all night with him, administering poultices of linseed oil and mustard which at that time were considered the proper treatment. She was also among the first to call on the bereaved and render assistance.

A friend asked her if she wouldn't be happy if her sons took wives so that they could help her with the multitude of tasks she continually performed. Her reply was, "I wouldna want the skithery things around". Indeed, Stuart was the only one who married and moved away from the family domicile during her lifetime, and she was very fond of Stuart's wife, Mary.

Catherine died of cancer in 1922, and John from the effects of a stroke in 1925. They are both buried in Dungannon Cemetery.

## **Donald MacLachlan**

### **Kathleen MacLachlan**

Donald MacLachlan was part of the original family unit from 1905 until he moved to his own half-section. During the early years, schooling was seasonal and irregular, but chores were omnipresent and regular! In spring there was gardening — planting vegetables and potatoes; in summer there was weeding and cultivating; in autumn there was "raising" the vegetables; in winter there was the daily trek with the cattle to the lake to drink water through holes in the ice; and all year round there was stock to be fed and cows to be milked. Later, he did his share of rock-picking and root pulling on newly-cleared land. He was also the chief errand-runner, sometimes on horseback, sometimes on his bike, and often on foot — especially to find lost livestock or to convey messages to neighbors. It must have been a great help



Jean MacLachlan, Lester Bishop with Bob MacLachlan in front on a load of hay.

to the family when, on October 23, 1914, the telephone was installed.

In winter and early spring, Donald had a trapline at Brad Sailor's Lake. This yielded many muskrats. He also shot coyotes when they became too plentiful and raided the chicken coop. On February 10, 1915, he sold 2 coyote pelts and one weasel skin to the local fur-buyer, Harry Hyman for \$8.25. Muskrat pelts were worth about 25¢ apiece. In duck shooting season he was often called upon to guide friends to favorite hunting lakes. Mr. Fife, the School Inspector, and Mr. McAfee from Edmonton were among the most keen on this type of recreation. He also went moose hunting with Doug and Alf Parton, and brought home his share of wild game for the table.

Donald shared with George and Stuart the many farming and building operations. They got logs out of the "bush" to build a huge barn, they "put up" tons of hay in stacks later to be lifted to the hayloft for winter feed for the stock. The mowing and raking was all done by horse-power, and coiling and stacking by fork and man-power.



Driver — Bob MacLachlan



Howard Baader, John MacLachlan, Jean MacLachlan, Bob MacLachlan, Don in centre holding halter shanks.

There was the hand-powered cream separator which had to be “cranked” after every milking; there was the hand pump on the well to draw all the water for the house and often to water stock; there was the firewood to be chopped for the hungry cookstove and heaters; there were the dozens of buckets of “swill” to be carried to the pigs. Donald was always on hand for these laborious jobs. It was a happy day for him when gasoline powered machines were bought for the farm. He had a natural aptitude for their operation. Water was pumped, wood was sawed, grain was crushed, and land cultivated, all by gas powered engines. From time to time these machines had to be overhauled and taken apart for cleaning and repair. As a self-taught mechanic he was in his glory. He lived to enjoy working with each new machine as it came into farm use. The tractor replaced the horses in pulling the plow, cultivator, harrows, binder, mower and rake. The P.T.O. on it operated the grain auger and crusher. Donald operated a threshing outfit for some years, doing the MacLachlan family's grain as well as that of neighbors. This was replaced by the tractor-pulled combine, which, in turn gave way to the self-propelled combine. Present day farmers seem to be beggared by procuring loans to replace their machinery by “bigger and better” models.

Donald's social life centered around the activities

of the United Farmers of Alberta which he joined at its inception in the early '20's. At the close of most of their public meetings he entertained with black and white silent movies of the time, (Charlie Chaplin, Pearl White, etc.) followed by hilarious cartoons for the young members of the audience.



Don MacLachlan with Tom Dempster's 60 h.p. “Cat.”

For some years he was a U.F.A. Director for the Pembina Constituency, attending their annual conventions in Edmonton and Calgary. In this capacity he also accompanied important speakers and officers from Central Office to the various special gatherings in his territory. During election campaigns, he frequently escorted hopeful candidates to electoral meetings, acted as chairman, and introduced them to voters' meetings. For the most part these gatherings were enjoyable, but sometimes not so pleasant.

One bizarre experience comes to mind. He and his M.L.A. candidate were being flown by Punch Dickens in an open-cockpit plane to Ft. Chipewyan



on a cold November day with air-pockets plummeting them up and down like a yo-yo. When they put down at their destination, Don was so air sick he hoped to be removed from the scene by an earthquake or some other act of God. No such luck! There was the meeting at which he must preside. He was given a swig out of a friend's bottle, and managed to live through the ordeal. The next day, on their return flight to Edmonton, the passengers were perched knee against chin on some sacks of frozen fish and the draped corpse of an Eskimo woman being flown out for post mortem!

Donald was a member, and in turn, President of the Canadian Scottish Literary Society of Edmonton. This was strictly a male group which drooled over Burns and the haggis. He also belonged to the Old Timers' Association of Westlock, and served for some years as its President.

In 1945 when he and Kathleen were married, he took up residence on SW 15-59-25-W4 which he had acquired in 1935. This was his home until his death in 1964. His son, Bob, now owns and operates Donald's farm.

## The George MacLachlan Story

Jean Huot

George MacLachlan was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on February 7, 1881. Since there was no chance of becoming a landowner in Scotland unless you were wealthy, the promise of inexpensive land in the New World was exciting. In 1899 George came to Canada, and spent a year in Hamilton, Ontario, plying his trade as a lino designer. He returned to Scotland, but later, with three buddies, Jim Curle, Duncan Gray, and Neil Forbes travelled to Western Canada dreaming of homesteads.

In the spring of 1902 he spent some time at the Immigration Hall on Jasper Avenue. From this loca-



Threshing crew at George MacLachlan's. Donald MacL., Duncan Gray, Carman Breadner, ?, George MacL., ?, Owen Jones.

tion, groups were constantly venturing into the surrounding areas in search of land in the "Great West" that would be suitable for homesteading. News of land to the North that the Indians called "Little Grande Prairie" circulated through the Hall. George and his Scottish friends decided to explore this area. On April 4th, 1902, two of the boys, Charlie Edgson and Neil Forbes set out from Edmonton. Three days later they returned with the news that although the travelling was rough, and they had to hire a guide, they had indeed seen the prairie, and it was as the Indian had said, a flat land with less bush, a good prospective homestead area.

Although the land was what they dreamed of, there were some drawbacks. One was the difficulty of getting through the heavy timber that surrounded the prairie. The second was that it was not yet open for homesteading. Determination prevailed and the boys eventually settled, with George homesteading ½ mile south of Clyde Corner where he continued to reside from 1902 until his death in 1962. Within two years he received letters from his brother, Stuart, and his father, John asking him to pick out homesteads for them near his own. In 1905 they joined him.

In between clearing land and building shelters on the homestead, George and Stuart were busy working on the road. The diaries of John MacLachlan indicate that the boys worked when possible over a period of four years building roads in the area, mostly south from Clyde Corner on what is now Highway 2.

George was always involved in community work. He served on the Dungannon School Board, and was a member of the Local Improvement District before it became a municipality. He was Chairman of the Power Board and the Rural Telephone Company. He was an original member of the U.F.A. Central Co-Op Board on which he served for 30 years. He was instrumental in forming the Pembina U.F.A. Co-Op in 1931, and remained on the Board until his death. He was an elected member of the U.F.A. Legislature in 1921, and served a total of 18 years as an M.L.A., the last 4 years as an Independent member. As stated by the Westlock News at the time of his death, "It is impossible to give George due credit for his contributions to early life of the settlement, for very few persons remain who remember, though others share the benefits of the work of men like him".

He was a devoted father, and had a great deal of concern for the future of the younger generation. One of his greatest pleasures was watching young people grow and develop into worthy citizens.

He married late in life. He is survived by his wife, Edith, a daughter, Jean who is a teacher in Castledowns, and a son, John, who is a musician, all living in Edmonton.

## Rev. M. M. MacLean and Family

Rev. M. M. MacLean served the Presbyterian Church in Westlock and the surrounding areas of Pibroch, Clyde and Busby from 1919 — 1925. The first winter he lived in Edmonton with his brother, Kenneth and came to Westlock on the weekends as there was no manse at that time. I believe it was Mrs. Guest who provided a room for his weekends, to which he could come and go at will. I recall him telling the story in his droll way, how one Sunday morning, after having arrived rather late the night before, he walked down the stairs with an attractive young woman behind him, and introduced his bride.

In 1925, Church Union took place, uniting the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches, and Rev. MacLean continued as minister until 1926.

During the years at Westlock two children were born, Betty and Ian; Ronald and Scott arrived later. In those early days the McLeans visited the country points with a horse and cutter. Obadiah, the horse, had a mind of his own. He would voluntarily turn in at the farm gates where he recalled having a good feed on previous occasions and would go sailing on by the other farms, and only under great constraint could he be persuaded to turn in.

Sometimes it would be a two day trip to go out to the country for a funeral, going by train as far as possible, then to be met by a farmer and his horse. But the friendships of those early days and the bonds developed, as the result of facing hardships together, more than made up for the difficulties of daily life.

Mrs. MacLean told the story of a Cub Camp-out in the bush at Lac La Nonne I believe, where she and her young daughter had gone along with Mr. MacLean. Darkness had no sooner descended when one young Cub was overwhelmed with homesickness and burst into a prolonged fit of crying, to the point that he was about to unsettle all the other campers. There was no answer but to drive him all the way home that very night. "Don't be alarmed," Mr. MacLean said to his wife, "I'll build a big fire for you to sit by and it will keep the bears away." It must have worked as they were there to greet him when he finally arrived back about midnight.

In the epidemic of 1925, Betty contracted Polio, but the miracle was that her infant brother, Ian, was alright, although Mrs. MacLean took care of them both at home during the infectious period.

The friendship that Mr. and Mrs. MacLean made in Westlock, their first Canadian home, remained with them until their deaths in 1963 and 1975 respectively. Their son Ian died in 1969; his wife and two sons live in Calgary. Ronald, Canada's Past Ambassador to Brazil, presently resides with his family in

Ottawa. Scott and his family live in Calgary. Betty married David Cook, a United Church minister, and they presently live in Calgary where their three children and four granddaughters also reside.

## Fred and Jennie MacLean

Originally from Nova Scotia, Frederick Allison MacLean, a miner, a steam engineer and farmer, retired to Westlock in 1946 with his wife Jennie (nee Pomeroy). They were better known as Aunt Jen and Uncle Mac.



Fred and Jennie MacLean, 1956.

For many years Aunt Jen cooked for the summer camp of the United Church at Long Island Lake, and for this she was honored by having the "Mac" in the official name of "Camp Mackinicholea" named after her.

Their married daughter and married son reside, with their families, in Edmonton.

Mr. MacLean passed away at the age of 87 and Mrs. MacLean **died at the age of 76**. Both are buried in the Westlock Cemetery.

## Fred and Norah Madsen by Jean Munro

Fred and Norah Madsen moved from the city of Edmonton to the Slaterdahl homestead, in the Pickardville area, in the summer of 1954 with seven children: Fred Jr., Dickie, Norah, Tony, Barbara, Jean and Pat.



Although it wasn't unusual, even in the early fifties, for older farm homes to be without modern conveniences we were not about to live without all luxuries for very long. Dad soon had a makeshift bathroom with a toilet and bathtub set up for us. He bought an electric generator and we had power for our television. It was quite a novelty as television sets were rare at that time.



Fred and Norah Madsen.

Dad's main reason for moving to the country was to give his children a safe and healthy growing environment. However, the two oldest boys soon decided that farm life was not for them. Fred Jr. left to work up north and Dickie joined the Air Force.

There were still five of us and Dad wanted to give us the best of everything so, to supplement the farm income, he went to work, first in Eldorado and then in Edmonton.

Mom was left alone with five city bred children. She certainly had her work cut out for her just teaching us to cope with our new life. Nonetheless, she found time to become active in the community, joining the W.I. and writing for the local newspaper, the "Westlock Witness." Mom learned how to drive, out of necessity, but could never get the old Dodge car to stop to "Whoa!" She has a wonderful sense of humor which was our blessing many times over.

By late fall of 1958 Dad had enough of commuting and we missed him terribly when he was away, so back to the city we went.

There were changes by then. Fred Jr. had married; Dickie had been killed in a car accident, Norah and Barbara were working in Edmonton and Tony had joined the Navy.



Fred and Norah Madsen family. Tony, Pat, Dad, Barbara, Norah, Jean. Christmas morning, 1954.

We are still living in or near Edmonton now except for Fred Jr., who lives with his wife, Merilda, and son, Richard, in Australia.

Norah, her husband, Simon, and her three sons, Ross, Gerard and Tom, live in Edmonton, as do Tony, his wife Karen and their two children, Michelle and young Tony. The youngest of the siblings, Tim, was born soon after we moved back to Edmonton. Tim lives there with his wife,

Suzanne, and two sons, Brian and Philip.

Barbara, her husband John, and their two youngest children have recently moved to an acreage near Ardrossan. The two oldest boys, Rick and Mike, live in Edmonton. Rick and his wife Kathy have one son, Christopher.

Pat, her husband, Dave, and their children Sandi, Scott, Derek and Barbara live on an acreage at Edmonton Beach.

Jean, her husband Reg and children Aurea, Charlotte and Trevor Joe, live at Dunstable.

Fred and Norah still live in Edmonton overseeing their brood. Some of our happiest get-togethers include memories of our escapades on the farm.

### **The Mannen Family submitted by Mary Pollard**

Alonzo and Isabelle Mannen came from North English, Iowa where their family was born. In 1908 they came to South Edmonton, known as Strathcona,



Pearl, Harry, Luella, Ray and Willis Mannen, early 1920's.

to spend Christmas with their daughter Mary who was already living there and was married to Wilfred Smith. A daughter, Annie, remained in the States. Mr. Mannen's health was poor so they sold the land they had purchased in Whitemud Creek area and came out to settle in the Hazel Bluff area.

In the spring of 1909 the Mannens moved with a hayrack their belongings to a farm south of the church. They brought feed for their cattle which they herded along behind the load. For a while they lived in Angus MacRae's house on the northeast meridian baseline corner. The church was being built at the time so Mr. Mannen helped build it.

Mr. Mannen's health had improved in this country and he lived for eleven years before his death in 1920 at 59 years. Mrs. Mannen made her home with daughter Edith Violet until her passing in 1938 at 78 years.



The Mannen family. Wesley, Walter, Eva, Harry, Mary, Ray and George.

## The William J. Manning Family by Girlie Manning

The William J. Manning family moved from Ponoka, Alberta to the Westlock district in 1915 and settled on their homestead the S.E. ¼ 24-60-27-W4. The four eldest children Melvin, Marion, Fred and Elsie attended the Sunnybank School.

The family moved into Westlock in 1922, where my Father opened a grist mill across from the creamery, in our back yard, and ground grain for the farmers. My Father and William Gilchrist, who was the creamery manager at that time, were instrumental in starting the first curling rink in Westlock. Mother



Eleanor Griswold, and Manning children: Elsie, Edith, Russell and Girlie holding Arthur.

went out on maternity cases with Dr. E. F. Henderson a very popular doctor. The other doctor in town was Dr. Miller. Melvin worked at the Bennet and Renaud Hardware after school. I, Marion, known as Girlie, did baby sitting for the Lorne Campbell family after school and went into training at the Misericordia Hospital in 1927 and graduated in 1930 and was the first nurse from Westlock. Elsie baby-sat for the Butler family. He was a grain elevator man.

My Father bought a new Essex car in 1926. The family moved to Vancouver in 1934. Melvin now



lives in Vancouver, B.C. He was in the Armed Forces and was wounded overseas in 1941.

Marion (Girle) also lives in Vancouver B.C.

Fred was in the Armed Forces and was lost overseas in 1941.



Geneva Clesson and Girle Manning.

Elsie lives in Lethbridge, Alberta.

Edith lives in Vancouver B.C.

Russell was in the Armed Forces from 1939 to 1945 and now lives in Ladner, B.C.

Herbert, who died at the age of one year in Westlock, is buried in the Hazel Bluff Cemetery.

Arthur was in the Armed Forces from 1940 to 1945 and now lives in Coquitlam, B.C.

### Mike Marko (Sr.) Family

As a young lad, Mike worked and played with his brothers and sisters on their beautiful scenic farm in Beskes Csoba, Hungary. Never lacking for playmates, as his mom and dad were blessed with three girls and two boys, young Mike grew and matured into a fine, handsome young man. Their family home was peaceful but the hardships that went with Russian Rulership took their toll on them, both mentally and physically, so they all decided to move out west to Canada. The children were Sophie, Helen, Mary, John and Paul.

When they arrived in Canada, the "Golden Land of Opportunity," they found it had lots to offer. Mike and Mary, with their children, homesteaded at



Mike Marko family. Mrs. Katie Marko and Mike. Children Steve and Frank.

Analta, where they stayed for fifteen years, later moving to Wainwright. However, nothing came easily, and they found times hard here, too. When they set up homesteading, they had only a horse and buggy and a few minor tools — no other machinery.

Mike, being the oldest at twenty-four, had a heavy work load to carry during those long days. With his dad working away from home for the sake of bringing in more money for the family budget, Mike was now the "man of the house".

Later on, as the years went by, and Mike grew older, the job of coal-miner looked promising, so off to Edmonton he went with nothing more than a couple of dollars in his worn out coat pocket.

Time went by and young Mike, at the age of thirty, met and married Kathleen Toth who had just arrived from Estergom Megze, Hungary in the year 1929.

Frankly, Mike was overawed by this large, friendly family of Emery and Theresa Toth, but mostly of their lovely daughter, Kathleen. Courting Kathleen proved easy for Mike as they were neighbors in Analta and Wainwright.

Kathleen has five sisters, Mary, Louise, Irene, Margaret and Olga, and three brothers, John, Victoor and Emery.

Kathleen and Mike spent their honeymoon cutting a load of firewood with the axe and hauling it home with the horse and buggy ready for winter fuel, and attending to other essential needs.

As the years went by, they were blessed with five boys, all fine young men and now all married. Steve Mike, the oldest son, and his wife, Angeline live in

Westlock. At the early age of sixteen years, Steve apprenticed as a mechanic and is still working at his trade.

Frank and Marriette now operate the old family farm, just six miles outside of Westlock, which Mike moved onto in April, 1953.

James and Carol are now living in a condominium in Fort Saskatchewan, which they own.

Andrew and John are also living around Westlock.

The boys received their education at Edison School and at Irma, completing their studies at Westlock.

Besides operating the farm with his sons for a number of years, Mike also worked for Westlock Locker under the supervision of Roger Delfore for a period of fifteen years. He and his wife are now living at 10564-103 St. in Westlock and are enjoying their retirement years as they are now able to do the many things that they were unable to do during their working years. Mike celebrated his 75th birthday at the same time as Alberta celebrated its 75th anniversary.

Both Mike and Kathleen are very fond of their fourteen grandchildren.

Olga, Kathleen's sister, went back to Hungary some years ago and is living in an apartment there, where she seems very happy.

### **James and Margaret Matear by daughter Lydia Wood**

My father and mother came to Canada from Ireland with their children Jimmy, Martha and Elizabeth (Betty) in March 1912. They first resided in Strathcona where I (Lydia) and Peggy were born, making a family of five children. I still recall reading the address labels on the old trunks as follows: "Strathcona, by Edmonton, Alberta, Western Hemisphere, Dominion of Canada."

My dad bought a half section, the S½-17-58-26-W4 in the Pickardville area in 1923. As soon as the

land was fenced, and house and barn built, the family moved out to the farm. Jimmy, my brother, ran the farm and Dad kept his job as street car conductor in the city.

As the years rolled by and "by the Grace of God", we all grew up.

Jimmy married Cecile Brassard. Their children are: Louis, Billie, Jackie, Jim, Paul, Patricia and Beatrice.



George Wood, 13; Jim Wood, 8; at St. Vigens School, Arbroath, Scotland.



Matear family. L to R: Jimmy, Mum (Marj), Dad (Tom), Lydia, Martha, Eileen Burns, Peggy.

Martha married Edmond Hill (both now deceased) and they had one child, Geraldine.

Elizabeth (Betty) married Arthur Dyer, also both deceased. Their children are Jean, Dorothy and Ted.

Lydia married George Wood and had one child, Doreen (deceased).

Peggy married Einar Nerland and had one son Raymond. Einar is now deceased.

At time of writing (1983) Jimmy and Cecile live in Victoria, B.C., George and Lydia are living in Busby and Peggy makes her home in Calgary.



## **Jack Matthews** by Alberta Snyder

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Matthews moved onto the Hildridge farm about 1921 — now the farm where Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Brown live.

Mrs. Matthews was raised in the Calmar area, and Mr. Matthews came from the U.S.A. They were a quiet, clean, hard-working couple who lived very much to themselves, yet were hospitable and ever ready to lend a hand to help others. They had no family.

They passed away in the 1940's and are buried in the Busby cemetery.

## **Adolph Mauch Family** by Dorothy Noel

Adolph Mauch was born in Russia in November, 1909. At the age of three he immigrated to Canada on the "Bremen" and settled with his parents and older sister in the Bruderheim area. He got his education in Beaver Hills. At 19 he went to Vegreville to drive truck for Alberta Lumber Co.

For entertainment the family had their own band and played at all the social functions in the area. Grandad played the drums, Dad the violin, a younger brother the accordion, and a brother-in-law-to-be, the guitar.



Adolph Mauch's team.

In 1930 he purchased land in the Newbrook area and started on his own farm. In December, 1933, he married Pauline Schiller from Bruderheim. Another quarter-section was purchased for \$1000.00, a wedding gift from Mom's parents.

From this union my brother came along in November, 1934, and then in July, 1936 they were blessed with me. We were both delivered at home by the County Nurse. Soon the two room log house had to have an addition put on. The inside was plastered with mud and straw and then a glue that was cooked was brushed on for a smooth surface.

Horses were essential to Dad, but his love and care for them was shown in the grooming he gave them. The scotch tops were hand made in leather with his initials in buttons in nickel, the centre spreads were made from white rings, all with the nickel trim.

I have fond memories of our dog "Sport", a black German Shepherd that truly earned his keep. It was as if he had human instincts and never had to be told what was expected of him. With Dad being away so much, he never worried, as no one came close to us kids or the yard unless Mom wanted them around, even if they were friends. He was our protector.

Dad's first car was a 1924 "Model T Ford". The land in Newbrook was low and had a lot of muskeg, so ground fires were very prevalent. Many times when we came home from town the smoke was so thick Mom had to walk beside the car so Dad could drive without running off the side or hitting one of the burned out holes.

Winter months were busy sawing and skidding logs. Then they were brought home to cut into lumber as Dad had his own sawmill. The lumber was used to build his hip roof barn along with any other necessary buildings. The slabs were used for fences and hog huts. We kids loved playing in the sawdust, pretending we were large hog farmers. We would fill up everything with our chop and water, even the feed cutter and blower.

One experience stands out in my mind. We often watched our parents burn bush piles and as youngsters, were fascinated by the sight, so it seemed quite natural when my brother saw this tall dry grass of our neighbor's, he should help out. I'm still amazed at the effort my parents must have put in, to stop the fire and save the buildings. Of course, Ray got scared and ran into the bush to hide, so despite all their weariness, they still had to look for big brother who fell asleep in the trees and wasn't answering their calls. Mom was so happy to find him safe that she forgot to punish him. Need I say there were no more fires started.

Dad had his own threshing machine so he would be gone for weeks in the fall to harvest the neighboring crops, sometimes till Christmas.

This machine came into the Pickardville area when they moved in November 1946, to the land they had purchased east of town from Mr. Hill, the S $\frac{1}{2}$ -32-58-26-W4. Help was getting harder to find so it wasn't long before it was replaced with a combine. The 1929 Allis Chalmers tractor used then is still in running order today.

We got our education to grade nine in Pickardville, then I went to Westlock for high school. After graduation I attended McTavish Business Col-

lege and worked for Alberta Government Telephones for two years, before my marriage to Gorman Noel from Westlock in 1957.

Raymond continued to work on the farm after his education. After his marriage to Lori Gale from Westlock in 1959, he purchased the home half-section. They have five children; Greg, Gwen, Rodney, Bradley and Kori.

Our parents bought another quarter in the Busby district in the spring of 1962, where they continued the work they knew best.

In the spring of 1973, the folks retired to Westlock. Dad is still active with the farm, as he goes out and still does tractor work and the combining. Mom was always an outdoors person; her beautiful gardens and flowers still show her love for it today.

## **The Bob May Family**

**by Agnes Boscha**

Bob May was the youngest son of Percy and Amy May. The family squatted on land in the Busby area in 1905 before Alberta became a province. Early letters from the home in England were addressed: Busby, North West Territories, Canada. They chose this area to be near friends from England, the George McMillan family.

In those early years the land was cleared with the help of oxen who would lay down on the job on a whim. Bob often told of lighting a fire under them to get them going again.

The May family had one of the few pianos in the area in those years and Bob remembered the many times his mother had all the bachelors in the area in for dinner and an evening of music and dancing. He worked on the laying of tracks for the N.A.R. when the railway went through the area. At an early age, Bob homesteaded a quarter of his own a few miles south and east of the original home place. He worked at the logging camp at Widewater in the winter and as a farm laborer for neighbors to get his own start.

Social life for the young people at that time meant often riding horseback to a country dance held in one of the schools. Often, Will May would play the violin, his wife Win, the piano and Bob would call the squares.

On September 25, 1931, at the age of thirty, Bob was married to Nancy Livingstone. Nancy was a school friend of his brother's wife. She was a nurse and had spent two years nursing at the hospital in Grande Prairie. Afraid that Bob was getting impatient waiting for her, Nancy flew from Grande Prairie to Edmonton with a bush pilot for the wedding.

A daughter, Agnes, was born in 1934 and son Gordon, in 1937. Both children were winter babies and were delivered in Edmonton. Bob and Nancy

told of the dreadful trips home to the farm in the Model A Ford with new babies and not enough power to make the hill at St. Albert on the ice. One time they were up and down the hill four times before they reached the crest!

Nancy practised her nursing skills helping neighbors deliver babies and attending to any sickness that came along. She was a charter member of the Echo Hill Women's Institute and also belonged to the Busby United Church Ladies Aid. Meetings of these groups were held in the summer when roads were passable. The women drove horses and rode in buggies or democrats.

Bob was a member of the Spring View School Board and was instrumental in the establishment of that school. He was also foreman for road building crews in the area. In the early forties Bob and Nancy often boarded teachers. There was so little money that often the teacher wouldn't get paid until the end of the season. In 1942 the Spring View School was closed and children were bussed into Busby.

Nancy raised chickens as most women did in those years. During the war when sugar was rationed, she began raising bees for honey. Other war effort projects included knitting for the boys overseas and sending food hampers to family and friends in Britain.

In the mid 1940's I can remember attending winter card parties. We would bundle up in the sleigh, have hot rocks for our feet and drive five to ten miles to a neighbors house. Coats bundled on a bed. Children playing in one room, and adults playing "500" in another. In the spring an annual event was the strawberry teas at Kay and Alex McMillan's home.

About that time farmers went on strike and refused to ship their cream and Nancy and Kay made butter in Kay's washing machine. Nothing was ever wasted.

In the late 30's we had one of the few radios in the area and Bob often told of neighbors coming to hear results on election night. Lux Radio Theatre was always listened to on Monday evenings.

In April of 1947, Bob and Nancy sold their farm and moved to Edmonton. Bob learned carpentry and established his own contracting firm which built houses for ten years. Later he sold real estate. Nancy died in 1960. In 1970 Bob married Ruth Alexson whose family had farmed in the Leduc and Josephsburg areas in the early years of Alberta's history. Bob died in December of 1978. Presently Agnes and her husband, Koop Bosscha, live in Grande Prairie and Gordon and his wife, Carole, live in Edmonton.



## **The William May Family**

Bill May came to Canada from England as a boy of eight in 1905. His parents homesteaded northeast of Busby where Bill, Cissie and Bob eventually went to school. Bill worked hard to help his father in those early days trying to build a new life in this harsh country. It proved too much for his mother who passed away in 1915. Bill managed to acquire the quarter of land west of the homestead to build a home of his own. In 1922 he married Winnie Sanders who had come from Edmonton with her parents and brother George the previous year.

In 1924 Betty was born, the first of five girls. She was five by the time Nancy arrived, followed by Dorothy, Jean and Marjory in quick succession.

With five children in school they decided to move closer to town, so in 1939 they bought some land just east of the Busby elevators and built another house. Money was scarce, so they sold milk in town for a little extra cash and Bill was able to get work at the elevators, unloading coal etc.

By 1947 with no sons to help on the farm and Winnie's health failing, they decided to move to Edmonton. They lived in the Highlands District for some time and Bill worked in construction. Later they purchased a grocery store on 118th Ave which they operated for some years, but had to give it up due to ill health.

On Mother's Day in 1962, after seeing all her daughters happily married, Winnie May was laid to rest — a release from her suffering. Bill lived three more years but cancer took its toll in 1965.

Unfortunately there was no one to carry on the May name. That was to be left to Gordon, son of Bill's brother Bob.

Betty married John Leppington who passed away in 1960. She has two daughters and a son and lives in Oakville, Manitoba.

Nancy and Gordon Oleschuk bore five sons. The eldest was killed in a car accident in 1972 at the age of 23. Gordon is about to retire after 35 years with Edmonton Transit. Nancy worked for many years as a long distance operator with Alberta Government Telephones. Now the grandchildren keep her busy.

Dorothy and Norm Thomson have an empty nest now their three children are married. Norm is a semi-retired business man while Dot works part-time.

Bob Ponto died of a brain tumor in 1978 and Jean was left a widow at 44. She has two girls and two married boys and works at Sears in Heritage Mall.

Marge and Vic Molofy have two sons and two daughters, the eldest teaches school and the youngest is just finished high school. Marge has chosen a career with A.G.T. and Vic is with Edmonton Transit.

Although there was little money and hard times, we "May Girls" have many happy memories of our childhood in Busby. Violet Reynold's spelling bees in the old school—the practising and finally the excitement the night of the Christmas Concert.—C.G.I.T. and Choir led by Mrs. Young the minister's wife—Dance Night at Busby Hall with the children bedded down under the stage.

Bill and Winnie's Golden Years were brief but hopefully the values they instilled in their children will be just as important to their great grandchildren.

## **Percy John May**

**prepared by C.R. Elliott**

Percy John May (May 2, 1870 — November 14, 1928) was the youngest of eight children born to William May and Fanny Goldney Fenn of Covenbrook Hall, England. On September 5, 1895, he married Florence Amy Young, (September 11, 1871 — May 23, 1915) one of twelve children born to Mr. and Mrs. Jocelyn Young of Chelmsford, England.

Percy and Amy May had three children; William (December 10, 1897 — July 22, 1965), Sissy Emily (June 12, 1899) and Percy Robert (January 6, 1901 — December 17, 1978). In England, Percy May worked in a men's clothing store owned by his older brother, Herbert. He did not own any property and readily accepted the challenge to emigrate to Canada where there was space and opportunity. Family possessions, including a piano, were packed for the long boat trip to New York, then by rail to Montreal and west to Edmonton. The Canadian train of "Homesteader Carriages" was loaded with new Canadians. Each carriage had its own stove on which the mothers cooked the meals. It was on this train that a couple offered to buy Robert, aged three, an accepted practice of the times for acquiring a family. Robert was not for sale.

The homestead, (SE¼-1-58-27-W4) was two miles north and one mile east of Busby (and access from Edmonton was by trail from the south). From Edmonton, the May family and their possessions were transported to the Busby homestead by a bachelor neighbor, Jack Seally, with his team and wagon. After spending one night at Ray, the Mays arrived at their Busby homestead in 1905, and on that first Sunday, June 12, Emily celebrated her sixth birthday. Everything arrived safely except the piano, which was still in England, waiting for passage on a freighter.

The homestead was on crown land, but unlike other homesteads in the area, did not have mineral rights because in 1905 Alberta became a Province and all mineral rights were retained by the crown.



Percy and Amy May with Robert and William and Emily before leaving England.

Homesteading wooded land in Northern Alberta was not an easy life for English city people. During those early years of clearing land and farming small fields there was not much cash. Occasionally, essentials purchased in Edmonton were paid for by selling family treasures such as fancy china and silver dinnerware. It was during these harsh times that Percy wished disaster on the piano, still to arrive from England, so that he could at least collect the insurance. But the piano did come, and since it was the first one in the district, was a welcomed instrument, even though it made the trip upside down in an unmarked crate.

Percy's wife, Amy, like so many of the homesteaders' wives, brought a touch of class and artistic talent to the new frontier. Besides being an accomplished pianist and trained singer, she was also an artist who worked with charcoal, oil and pencil. Her lunch boxes at the famous "box socials" were decorated with handpainted flowers and scenes. Amy taught piano to many district girls including Grace,

Doris and Madge Dorsey. She prepared and accompanied many participants in the literary Society concerts. Her favorite was her baritone husband, Percy, who by popular demand, would sing "Daddy." There were several pianists in the region. One frequent visitor to the May home was Mr. Jack Fleming who came to play Amy's piano.

All three children attended Advance School for grades 1 to 8, traveling two and a half miles by cutter in the winter or by all riding one horse.

In 1913 the daughter, Emily, returned to England to Under-study with an aunt as a children's nurse for the Pilkington family, owners of the glass works in England and Edmonton. She was called home to keep house for her father and two brothers when her mother, Amy, died on May 13, 1915 at the age of 44 in an Edmonton hospital, following surgery.

On June 11, 1919, Percy married Edith Stuart (February 22, 1886 — October 28, 1967) of Edmonton. They had one daughter, Janet Goldney, born October 23, 1920.



Emily married Orlando William Elliott (May 16, 1893 — July 18, 1963) on April 28, 1920 in the Percy May home with Reverend James Kelly, Presbyterian Minister, officiating. They set up farming one mile east and a half mile south of Busby. They raised four children. William married Winifred Rhoda Sanders (August 28, 1902 — May 13, 1962) on September 25, 1922 and moved her to his farm two miles north of Busby. They raised five daughters. Robert married an Edmonton nurse named Agnes Cameron Livingston (February 21, 1907 — May 29, 1960) on September 25, 1931 and moved her to his new homestead three miles east and one mile north of Busby in the Springview area. They had one daughter and one son.

Janet became a nurse and moved with her mother to Vancouver, and on June 12, 1948, married Dr. James Revely Farish (February 16, 1917). They raised five daughters.

Percy John May died November 14, 1928 at the age of 58. He had many friends who described him as hard-working and fun loving, always ready to sing and laugh. Percy and his first wife, Amy, are buried in the Advance cemetery. His second wife, Edith, died in Vancouver.

## **R. W. and Becky May by Mary (May) Chugg**

We lived in Michigan but my father got interested in Alberta through a friend, Tom Grice, who had emigrated to Alberta in 1909 and settled in what was later called the Arvilla district. In 1910 he sold our home in Michigan, having a sale the first part of March.

We went by train to Calgary and he met two men on the train, with large families, who were going to Stettler, and who persuaded him that, with our large family of eight and their families, we would be able to get a school right away, so he filed on a homestead and pre-emption at the government office in Calgary. He left mother and we children in Calgary while he went up to meet Mr. Grice in Edmonton. He then decided to go on, so sent for mother to come to Edmonton. He waited for us in Edmonton, then on March 22nd, Mr. Grice met us with a team and wagon in Morinville. My father had bought a horse in Edmonton, so he rode her to Morinville, while we went by train. The weather was like spring, and no snow. It started to rain in the evening, just as we stopped at a farm house for supper. We arrived at the Grice home at about three in the morning. We had brought a tent, stove, heater, sewing machine and a few other things from Michigan. He set the tent up in Grice's yard, and built a lean-to for a kitchen and storage. Mother had dried a lot of apples and also

brought a lot of canned fruit. It snowed some around the last of March but it didn't stay long.

The men of the community had formed a school district and were in the process of building a school. They named it Brooklyn School. School opened on June 1st, 1910, with Miss Telfer, who was just out of Normal School, as our teacher. She was very inexperienced, so had a lot to learn. Her home was quite a way north of us, so she boarded with the Skinners, who had no family.

My father homesteaded the NE¼-7-58-27-W4, just across from the school, and we moved into a vacant house that had been owned by Tom White, on the SE¼-4-18-58-27-W4. His wife had died in the spring and he had farmed the children out as he had to go out to work.

Bill Maxwell and his wife and three girls, and Jonas, their 19 year old son, had moved in from Washington in September, so Mr. Maxwell helped my father get out logs and hew them, so that we could build a log house on our own land near the school. Maxwells had been living in the Ed. Hutchings cabin, so they moved into the Tom White home when we moved out, into our own home.

We used to get our mail at Pickardville, which was in Mr. Picard's home at that time. My brother, Waldo, and Leonard Grice, who were both eleven and a half years old, used to walk the eight miles to the Post Office and back in the summer time, to pick up the mail. In the winter we didn't get it so often. A year later we got the Arvilla Post Office, which the Skinners looked after at first, then they moved away and mother was Postmistress for the next three years, at a salary of \$50 a year. We got our mail twice a week. Bill Stimson, from Fawn Lake, north-west of us, picked up our outgoing mail and took it to Independence Post Office, which is now Busby, and brought our mail back along with the mail for Fawn Lake. Bill later married Susie Maxwell. She is the only one of the Maxwells left and lives in Vancouver, B.C.

We moved to Fort Macleod in 1915, and Pickering, a young couple who had homesteaded two miles west of us, built a house on the corner of the Herb Miller place, just north of the school. They took over the Post Office and also had a small store.

My father was a minister of the Church of God in Michigan, so he started a Sunday School and church in the school. Later they built a little church across from Grice's, two miles north. Dad travelled a lot by horseback, too, and held services Sunday afternoon in Dotson's home, up near Eastburg, also in the school near there. He used to drive about ten or twelve miles north on Sunday evening to Renton's sawmill and hold services there. We older girls used

to go with him. There wasn't much money in those days, so he and Mr. Grice freighted supplies for Mrs. Anna Edwards and her son, Henry Kipp, who had a store and post office at Eastburg. The round trip to Edmonton took them a week. In the rainy season, they often had to unload, drive through a mud hole, then re-load all the supplies.

The second year we were there, my father rented thirty acres across the road from us, from Dave Watson. He seeded it to oats and had a lovely crop. It was just ready to harvest when we had a terrific hailstorm. The next day the field looked as though it had just been plowed. He cleared and broke thirty-five acres on our own place, which was very hard work then as there were no bulldozers or tractors to help. We had a small meadow with native grass which he used to cut. He used to go four and a half miles north to cut slough grass for winter feed for the animals. We were lucky to have a good spring for water. Later he dug a well near the house and got lots of good water at fourteen feet. He cribbed it with rocks.

Our second teacher was Mr. Stephens from Scotland. He boarded at Harry Parsons, three miles from the school. He was an excellent teacher. In the spring his fiancée came from Scotland and they were married. Mrs. Potts, from England, was our next teacher. Her husband had homesteaded one mile south of us. She was an excellent teacher, too.

When we moved to Fort Macleod in the fall of 1915, we started school in October. The Principal thought, because we were from the "sticks" we wouldn't know much, so he degraded us, but soon put us up to where we belonged, and we were all top in our classes.

My older sister, Laura, married Jonas Maxwell in 1912. He had homesteaded two miles north of us. My daughter took me up through that way in 1980, and I couldn't get over how changed things were and how many places were gone. They had built an elementary school where Brooklyn School had been, when the High School was built in Westlock. The High School students were bussed into Westlock. Even that school is gone now.

My folks eventually moved back to the United States, and are buried near Ellensburg, Washington. I had four sisters born in Alberta, so that made twelve of us. There are eight living, all in Washington and Oregon except me. I had married Edgar Chugg in 1918 in Fort Macleod. In 1929 we moved to the Peace River country where we farmed until we retired and moved into Grande Prairie. Edgar passed away in 1969. I now live in Sherwood Park with a daughter who is a widow. I spend my winters in Yuma, Arizona. I have two sons and a daughter in Grande

Prairie, a daughter in Edmonton, another daughter in Kelowna, B.C., and one in Seattle. I also have a son in Venezuela. One of my granddaughters Alice married Norman Bilodeau, and they live west of Vimy, not far from our original homestead.

## **Bernard McAlpine Family** **by Loretta McAlpine**

Bernie McAlpine, better known in the west as 'Barney' came from his birthplace Maynooth, Ontario to Edmonton, Alberta in 1905 to join his brother Pat. For a few months he worked in mines but decided he would like to have a homestead. One day in 1906 he started walking in a northwest direction from the city and eventually arrived at Edison. After making inquiries he decided to file on a quarter, the SE 28-60-26-W4. Each year he would serve his time period and make the necessary improvements. The rest of the year he was involved in real estate which was booming in Edmonton. In 1911 he sold his land to Bill Betson.



Barney and Tessie McAlpine.

On January 23, 1917 Barney returned to Maynooth, Ont. to marry his school chum Tessie. For the next two years they resided in Edmonton and he was employed at Ramsay's Department Store.

By now independence and farming was Barney's dream, so they purchased the Swatfigure homestead located at SE 22-60-26-W4. April, 1919 the two set off for home sweet home with all their belongings in a wagon drawn by a team named Bess and Skip. In



those days everyone was very helpful and accommodating so they bunked with neighbors while they built the two room house. I recall my mother saying she would be happy even if it was a piano box.

On July 30, 1921 they were blessed with a son Bernard. He was tragically killed on July 12, 1926 by a kick from a horse. Daughter Loretta was born Mar. 1, 1923. Due to no hospital facilities available we had Dr. Phillips and Mrs. McEacheran for the first birth and Dr. Henderson and Mrs. Manning for the second. Another son Anthony Eugene was born June 17, 1933 and died June 19, 1933.



Loretta McAlpine, 1942.

We all enjoyed music, dancing and company. Many winter evenings were spent either playing cards or Barney playing the violin, Tessie the mouthorgan and Loretta on the piano.

Our road conditions were anything but superb with mud up to the wagon axles many times. People said they envied us on Sundays having a sleigh ride to church, but yours truly didn't think very highly of it when the bricks were cold and toes were freezing.

Barney was trustee for Poplar Knoll school, St. Mary's Church, and belonged to the Old Timers' Association. Tessie was active with the Hospital Auxiliary and church bazaars. Barney entertained with his step dancing and Loretta wiggled her toes a few times too.



Barney McAlpine. House in the background.

In 1948 Barney died so the farm was rented and Tessie moved to Edmonton to live with Loretta who was employed with Alberta Government Telephones. In 1962 Tessie died and Loretta became the owner of the family farm. In 1978 I sold the farm to John Pidsadowski and also retired from AGT after thirty-five years service. Life now is one of leisure and fond memories of the past.

### **The William McConaghy Story by Margaret Thompson**

William McConaghy came to Echo Hill district in 1905 from Marysville, New Brunswick. Four years later his wife, Elizabeth, and three children John, Geneva and Rehilda, came to the homestead which was located on the SE¼ 4-58-26 W4. George McMillan now owns this quarter.

On this farm, seven more children were born; Douglas, Ronald, Margaret, Fred, Gordon, Mark and Mary. My Dad's sister was a nurse and she delivered us all.

We lived here for a number of years, walking three and a half miles to the Vermillion Springs School. In warm weather we walked in our bare feet. In winter, Dad drove us to school with a team of horses and a sleigh. He didn't own a car.

Mr. Coulette of Legal bought the farm that Dad had homesteaded and we then moved to the farm that Vernon Seibert now owns, as this was closer to the school.

My Dad then decided that he would move to a farm he was renting from John Williams, half a mile



Lorne, Charles, William and James McConaghy (sitting).

west of Busby. We rented for two years and then moved half a mile further west, where he farmed until 1941. Ronald then bought the farm, but my Dad lived on the place until 1950, when he moved to Edmonton to live with his daughter Mary. In February of 1959 he passed away. He had been a widower for almost twenty years, his wife, Elizabeth having passed away on May 19, 1940.

John married Grace Tomilson of Bremner. They had one daughter who is now living in Manning, Alberta. John passed away Dec. 6, 1945.

Geneva married Brownsworth Taylor of Surrey, B.C. They had one daughter, Patricia. Geneva passed away on October 30, 1981 in Penticton, B.C.

Rehilda (Dood) married Martin Reynolds of Bremner, Alberta, and they have six children; Eleanor, Jack, Kenneth, Frank, Lois and Dale. Dood lives in Penticton.

Douglas married Vera Duval of Athabasca and they lived at Smith, where they raised ten children; Billie, Darlene, Fred, Karen, Romona, Jim, Shannon, Dan, Dean and Tracy. Douglas died September 9, 1977 at Smith, Alberta.

Ronald married Gertie McMillan of Busby, and they raised six children, the first being Alan, then Marie, Phyllis, Donald, Brian and Faye. Gertie is still living on the farm at Busby, Ronald having passed away May 20, 1971.

Margaret (myself) married Roy Thompson of Busby, where we farmed for thirty years. We had four children; Patricia, Clayton, Ralph and Neil. Pat is married and living on a farm three miles west of Alcomdale with her husband Gordon Meakin, and their five children; Jance, Wayne, Pamela, Wade and Noreen.

Fred is married to Stella Mickluck, who is from Redwater, and they live in Edmonton, and have two

sons; Denis and Edward. Gordon is also living in Edmonton with his wife, formerly Dorothy Matthews of Hardisty.

Mark, who married Alma Foss of Grande Prairie, now lives in Kelowna, B.C. They have a family of six; Marylin, Gerald, Murry, twins Donald and Donna, and Maureen.

My youngest sister, Mary, is married to John Done and lives in Edmonton with their two children Larry and Debbie.

## William John McCullough

by Beth Brawner

William John McCullough moved to Westlock in 1920 with his wife, Pauline and sons Allan and Bill. I (Beth) arrived in 1921.

William took over the management of the Beaver Lumber Company and was there until he retired in 1951.

The early years were busy ones, and with friends like Smiths, MacLeans, Gardams, to name a few, it was a real friendly community. My Uncle Rhad and Aunt Margaret (Brown) and family of seven came in 1924 and lived next door to us. Uncle Rhad had the dray business and in the back yard was a big yard light — a good place for home base for “Run, Sheep, Run” and “Red Light” and “Hit the Can” — not just for our families but the whole neighbourhood. The boys even built a tree house in the yard.

Even in my early years, I remember all the bake sales at the church — and what a great cook my Mum was. If there was a pie or a cake on the cupboard, my dad was sure there was a Bake Sale somewhere.

They always had time for special things for the families; like costumes for fair parades and ice carnivals. I won quite a few first prizes and my cousin, Helen James, remembers a few prizes for costumes made by my mum.

They had a real good drama club in town and my dad was in a few plays. His “Leading Lady” in one particular play — and I don’t even remember the name — was Grace Bentley, and they were quite a pair.

On top of all the activities that went on, Mum still found time to sew, and I was really lucky to have had such nice clothes. She was also kept busy cooking, washing clothes, etc., for a great bunch of people who made our home their second home. Some special ones were Lindy and Marie Lindahl and Ann and Ray Hide. Over the years they were very special to my mum and dad. Marie and Ann are still special to me.

Dad took over as Superintendent of the Sunday School and seemed to be there for years. He was strict, but his bark was worse than his bite, and a lot



of young people always came to see him when they were home on holidays.

A story he liked to tell was about the day he was on his way home for lunch and two young boys from Sunday School were on the sidewalk ahead of him. One of the boys looked up, saw him coming and said to the other, "Let's get out of here, here comes the bloody Preacher." He was still chuckling when he got home.

He also had the junior choir and now I know what he put up with; a bunch of 12 to 14 year olds! Mrs. Fred Westgate was our pianist and I'm sure she got tired of us asking her to play "The Robin's Return". How we loved that piece. We put on an operetta, "Green Cheese." It was quite an undertaking but we sure had fun — even though the voice of one of the boys changed and a girl had to take his place — me! Of course, the costumes were all made by my mum and all the mums of the choir members. Also it was a real thrill when my dad treated the choir to a "Grad" basketball game at the Gardens in Edmonton. A trip to Edmonton in those days was a thrill — a "Grad" game on top of it was the living end.

Dad and Mum were great church workers all their lives. I don't know how many years my dad sang in the choir but it seemed for ever, and I remember what a thrill it was for me when we sang a duet in church.

Dad was a Legion member — quite an active one in the earlier years. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge and it was a real honor for him when they presented him with a watch for 25 years as Secretary. He would really be pleased to know his only grandson, Graham Brawner, wore this same watch to his High School Graduation 32 years later. It still works like a charm.

There are so many good things I remember about growing up in Westlock, but they are just great memories for those involved at the time.

Westlock was a great place to live and I appreciate the many friendships that I made during the time I lived there. I'm really proud to be a part of it, and Westlock will always be home to me.

Mac and Pauline's family: Allan married Ruby Sterling from Westlock. Allan died in 1976. Bill lives in Edmonton now and has retired. Beth married Corvin Brawner and lives in Edmonton. Corvin worked for the John Deere Company for several years. He died in 1972.

## **Lois Jean McDonall**

Lois is the only child of Stanley and Alice McDonall. She was born on a bitterly cold (-52°F) winter night on the homestead in Larkspur, Alberta, about 25 miles north-east of Westlock. She is the granddaughter of Stephen and Mary McDonall, who

farmed at Larkspur, and of William and Jean Gordon, who came to the Sunniebend district in 1927.

After completing her education, Lois took voice training lessons at the Opera School in Toronto, from which she graduated. She spent a year at the Flensburg Opera in Germany, and since then has been a resident artist with the English National Opera, singing about twenty major roles.



Lois McDonall in the title role of the Sadler's Wells Opera production of Massenet's "Manon".

At the same time Miss McDonall, who is a talented soprano, is in constant demand throughout Great Britain and internationally, singing not only in opera, but oratorio. She also gives recitals and is broadcast frequently on the B.B.C.

Miss McDonall won the Canadian Opera Women's Committee scholarship in 1970.

Last spring Lois was acclaimed for her role as Anna in the premiere of the opera Anna Karenina by Iain Hamilton, who wrote the part expressly for her. Her last appearance in Toronto was as Rosalinda in Die Fledermaus in 1975.

Her mother, Alice McDonall, is a resident of Westlock, and enjoys the company of her daughter when she returns to Canada to appear in operatic productions in the major cities.

## **The Peter McEachern and D. C. Smith Family History** by Warren Smith

In 1904 the quarter section described as the NE of 32, 59, 26, W4 still awaited its destiny. Homesteaders passed along its northern border, the base line, as they made their way between Edison on the

east and Hazel Bluff and its neighbouring settlements to the west.

In 1905 my grandfather, Peter McEachern, a steam engineer from Sunderland, Ontario, met up with a homesteader who was looking for help in driving a small herd of cattle to a quarter he intended to file on west of Edison. Peter was also interested in looking for land in this area and agreed to lend a hand. When they arrived on the NE of 32, the cattleman was unable to find water for his stock and decided to push on to the river and locate there. Having thus decided, he told my grandfather that he could have the quarter if he were interested. Notwithstanding its surface water limitations, the land held promise. Much of the brush had been burned off and the soil was black and free of stones. Peter was definitely interested. That summer he filed on the quarter and in the spring of 1906, he moved his wife, Lovisa, and daughter, Mabel, from their home in Strathcona to a shack on the Douglas quarter, a mile and a half to the south of 32. There they lived while the farmhouse was being built on their homestead, a house which for three generations was to be closely identified with the development of Westlock. Peter subsequently was able to purchase the adjoining quarter to the west and now had ownership of a half section of land which was destined to become part of an urban development completely unforeseen at that time.



Mabel and Dios Smith, July 1914.

In 1907 after the family had moved into their new home, Lovisa McEachern, a woman of intuitive insight, had a dream in which a locomotive came whistling down the tracks right past the farm. This dream was so vivid that, when she awoke, she went to the window half expecting to see railway tracks and a train. This premonition of things to be was given little credence by the family but in due course when surveyors arrived seeking meals and lodgings stating that they were engaged in locating a right of way for a railroad, my grandmother or "Grandma Mac" as she was affectionately called, excitedly exclaimed, "For ANY sakes, my dream!" The railway which was accused of snaking through most every section between Morinville and Westlock did not cut through my grandfather's farm as it turned out but it did come close enough to the homestead to make her dream most prophetic. In consequence in 1913 Westlock was born on their doorstep, a circumstance that was to shape the rest of their lives.

My grandmother was wise in the ways of caring for the sick. When Dr. J. H. Phillips set up practice in the area, he was quick to enlist her help and encouraged her to take a home study course in nursing from the Royal College of Science in Toronto. In 1920 she obtained her diploma and for years assisted Dr. Phillips and Dr. E. F. Henderson in their trips to the sick throughout the area. Many a recovery was credited to her skillful care and not a few babies received their first bath at her hands.

One of her adventures in the years she served as a midwife probably bears repeating as it points out the great courage and resourcefulness of these pioneer women. It was one told to her grandchildren in her later years as she worked busily with a crochet hook, squeaking back and forth in her favorite rocking chair.

Late one winter afternoon, a strange team and sleigh came into her yard. A man whom she had never seen before came to the door and begged her assistance in helping his wife "have child". Enquiry established that it would be about a two hour trip to the south and after some deliberation she consented. She gathered up what she needed, dressed herself warmly and climbed into the sleigh box, seating herself on a stool provided and wrapping herself up in blankets. The stranger stood at the front of the box and drove without talking, behaviour which she found puzzling. Finally, they pulled into a yard and stopped in front of a shack. She was surprised that the place was in darkness. The man assisted her out of the sleigh, led her to the shack, pushed open the door, then made his way, in the dark, to a table where he lit a lamp. In the dim light my grandmother could see they were in a single room, completely alone. There





Mrs. Lovisa McEachern and daughter, Mabel, 1914.

was no pregnant wife! With a silent prayer that she would say and do the right thing, she convinced her deceiver that his best course of action was to return her to her home forthwith. The return trip was filled with suspense and eventually ended at her gate. Dismounting with great independence she lectured him about wasting her evening and sent him on his way with a warning that he should not pull off such a trick again. When asked why she didn't report the man, she said, "He did bring me back without harm and I guess I felt a little sorry for him. He probably did it out of loneliness. Living alone on a homestead can put notions in a man's head."

Lovisa and Peter McEachern's only child was a daughter, Mabel, who was fifteen when they came to the homestead. She was an attractive, athletic young woman when the Lou Smith family came into the area in the spring of 1910. Lou was a widow of the Spanish American War and related to the Garrisons, who came to the Edison area in 1903. Having heard about the availability of land through them, she left her home in Mount Vernon, Illinois and came to Edison. She eventually filed on a quarter section, the SE 15, 61, 26, W4, which was east of what was to become Pibroch. She had two sons, Ray and Dios and a daughter, Madge, in that order. They built a two story frame house on the homestead and within two years had "proved up" on the quarter.

Dios, whose namesake was an uncle on his mother's side, Dios Corides, was a telegraph operator before his arrival on the homestead and he quickly became convinced that tapping a key with his fingers was more rewarding than tapping a tamarac block with an axe. However, before returning to the telegraph wires, he had had occasion to meet Mabel McEachern and before long his heart began to clatter like a telegraph sounder. He gradually decoded the clickety claque as "I love you." When starting to work at the "head of the steel" at Tete Jaune, B.C. in 1912, with the Grand Trunk Pacific Telegraph Co., he practised verbalizing this message and by 1914 had persuaded Mabel to become his bride. They were married at the McEachern home on July 8th, 1914.

The bride and groom set out in a buggy for Clyde, there to catch the train to Edmonton and finally to Calgary where Dios was to manage the Grand Trunk Telegraph office. June had been a wet month, and on the way to Clyde Dios had to drive his horse and buggy through a rather deep stream. As the water rose up over the floor boards higher and higher, the bride had to raise her legs higher and higher and yet higher, much to the groom's delight. Mabel always accused him of deliberately driving through the very deepest spot.

In 1915 Peter McEachern died unexpectedly and my grandmother took his body back to the home graveyard in Ontario for burial there. This meant a major shift in lifestyle for Mabel and Dios. Fate had decreed that they should return to a life on the farm. This they did with enthusiasm.

In the meantime, my uncle Ray returned to the States, eventually establishing a line of creameries in Oregon. Lou decided to leave the land and moved to Edmonton where her daughter, my aunt Madge, could finish her schooling. Madge, in due course, married a young lawyer, Sig Nielson, and went with him to live in California. At the time of writing, she is still alive, a widow, living in San Francisco, the last survivor of the Lou Hagel-George Henry Smith union of October 7th, 1888.

My grandmother, Lou Smith, was a striking looking woman of erect carriage, her head adorned by beautiful blonde hair, usually wrapped in a bun, and her clothes stylish and worn neatly. Her twinkling blue eyes drew children to her as though she were Old Saint Nick's better half. She was a great cook. It was a delightful adventure and a privilege for her grandchildren to have breakfast at Grandma Lou's and to try out their good manners. If the visit ended without correction, you had indeed done well.

Lou returned to live in her house in Westlock in the late twenties. The house from the homestead had been moved into Westlock and was situated on a lot

on the McEachern farm. This building stands today, with some additions, as number 9907 on 100 Street.

Deeply rooted in her being was a wanderlust and by the early thirties my grandmother was on the move again. She lived in various places in the States, frequently returning to visit her relatives and friends in Canada, and died in September of 1950 in Oregon, one of only a few remaining widows of the Spanish American War.

The following years were busy for Mabel and Dios. They raised four children: Warren, Ray, Marion, and Madge.

My father also played an active business role in the developing community. With the settling of people in Westlock, there arose the need for certain basic services. My father provided one of them by starting the first dairy offering milk delivery throughout the village.

John Dezall ran the hardware store and post office and he and his wife became good friends of my parents.

John developed poor health and needed help to run his business. My father was eventually persuaded to take it over and to rent the farm. The family moved into Westlock to live in the house Lou Smith had moved in from the homestead. The farm was rented to Jim Watt and so the Watt family began its long and important involvement with the affairs of the town to be.

Miller Watt was a remarkably athletic young man and drew the admiration of the young fry on his milk delivery route by his deer-like activities. With arms filled with milk bottles, it was always a difficult undertaking to open gates. With a short run and a jump, he soared over them like a gazelle.

The hardware part of the operation which my father took over was moved from its location near the railway station to a brick building centering Main Street on the west side and in which it is thought that Hec Skinner and Gordon Pearce had done business. It was to be known as "The Westlock Hardware and Furniture Store". As an advertisement and a gift to his customers, my father had several hundred hardwood yardsticks made up, advertising Marshall Wells Paints and Varnishes on one side and on the reverse, the Westlock Hardware and Furniture (D. C. Smith) — Westlock, Alberta, The Home of Good Hardware. These were so durable that there are still some to be found in the homes of old timers. As school children, we were hoping that none of them found their way into the possession of School Principal, George Bauer, who preferred a good yardstick to a strap when called upon to punish a student for a misdemeanor.

It was in this store that my father first picked up

radio signals, using headphones and a two tube Marconi receiver in a bakelite box. One of the most exciting broadcasts in those days featured Clem McCarthey's broadcasts of the world heavyweight prize fights. His gravelly voice and vivid staccato-like phrasing put the listener right at ring side. My father's interest in radio rubbed off on me and in the fall of 1947 I set up an amateur experimental radio station, operating under the assigned call VE6EG. This was the area's first Ham Station and one which I continue to operate with great enjoyment. Exposure to this station set a path for a number of young high school boys and one in particular, Dennis Hollingshead, Helen and Archie's second son, made a career out of electronics.

The man who perhaps best understood the new marvel and became most wrapped up in it was the section foreman, a man named Brown. He and his family lived in meager circumstances in a small house where 97 Avenue now intersects the railway tracks. Their closest neighbours were the Leakes and McIntoshes. In the early twenties Brown built up a radio receiver with amplifier and loud speaker that was so powerful that it could be heard all over the village on a quiet night. Since few people had a radio to listen to and, perhaps to impress the town folks, Brown delighted in turning his on, full blast, in the evenings for all to enjoy. He would never show his equipment to anyone; hence what it was remained as much a mystery as how he was able to afford it. Two of his children, Fred and Earl, will be remembered as students in the 20's.

My father hired Westlock's first tinsmith to work with him. His name was Henry Mohrmann and his family lived at Bloomsbury. Henry had probably learned his trade in the Old Country. He was a short, slight, dark haired, energetic man with a small moustache which reminded one of Charlie Chaplin. He was proficient in his work and had a soft spot for children. In consequence he made hoops for my brother and me and some of our chums. These were about 18 inches in diameter and made out of quarter inch iron rod with ends welded together. It was great sport to wheel these around the yard and down the two plank sidewalks, directed by a T-bar made out of lathe. For more than twenty years these were a part of the play equipment at the Smith's and Henry was never to know that one of the lads who most enjoyed his hoops when he came to visit the farm, Ron McLean, second son of Rev. M. M. and Mrs. McLean, became a Canadian ambassador.

In 1926 the Hardware Store was sold to J. P. Renaud and W. A. C. Bennett and my family returned to the farm. In 1930 my father started buying grain for the Searle Grain Company. Following some



years with the Searle he started track buying for Dominion Grain Co. headed by William Gilfillan, who had been an early grain buyer and oil agent in Westlock. By shovelling his grain into a box car on a siding, a farmer could enhance the price of his grain and some were anxious to do this.

In the 40's local farmers turned to raising alsike clover under the direction of E. G. Wood, the popular District Agriculturist. Much had to be learned about the planting, growing and harvesting of this small seed and my father and others worked closely with Edgar in developing procedures. Windrowing turned out to be one of the most efficient ways of saving seed. There was still substantial loss from shelling and when prices soared work was done on a vacuum pick-up. The welding was done largely by George Guest and the unit mounted on a Massey 15 pull-type combine. Engineers from the Department of Agriculture studied the attempt, planning to improve on it but when prices plummeted the endeavor ended.

Weeds tended to grow up above the clover crops and to prevent them from going to seed, it was thought to be a good idea to cut them off. To do this Reg Little and my father mounted a sickle bar in front of a stripped down old Chev car. The cutting bar was operated by a small air cooled engine and on the day it was first tried out there was considerable interest. It worked quite well and Alex Miller drove the contraption over many hundreds of acres that summer, haircutting clover fields. Dr. Larry Kickham watched the initial test and named the machine, "The Little Smither".

During this period a number of men were hired by my father to help with the farm work. Fred Bunce worked for my father in those clover years and was very expert at adjusting the Massey combine to thrush out a reasonably good sample without throwing too much out the back end. Fred had his own "tricks", as he called them, and was quick to share them with others. After his farming years he became a road patrol operator for the M.D. and the Town of Westlock and was well known for his skill with the blade.

Stewart Roffey who was a great horseman was never happier at work than when driving a well turned out team or teams, or when he was exhibiting his prowess with a pitchfork. He had a few equals when it came to forking hay and his interest in horses kept him involved with their exhibits in the local fairs for years.

Mike Hamadej and Tony Lucas came to Westlock in the twenties from central Europe and spent the rest of their lives here. They hired out as long as they were physically able, stooking, forking hay, digging wells with a shovel, clearing land with an axe, picking

roots and stones, field pitching on threshing crews and any other job requiring a strong back. They lived their lives out as bachelors never being able to persuade their families in Europe to join them here. These two men made an important contribution to the development of our area and will be remembered fondly by their friends for their kind and generous natures.

Jim Carr came to Westlock in the late twenties and "hired out". He was an expert with an axe and for many years helped my father in the bush in the winter getting out the year's supply of fire wood. Jim suffered a severe head injury in the first accident of any consequence at our corner, later to become the junction of Highways 44 and 18. A car driven by Jimmy Murfitt was in collision with one driven by Fred Westgate in which Jim was a passenger. My mother wrapped Jim's head in a bed sheet to stop the bleeding as he was taken to the hospital. Fred and Jim were on their way to the Dungannon cemetery to dig a grave and Jim later joked that he came close to needing a grave of his own. He lived out his days in a small house on 7th Street.

Bert Farmer arrived in Westlock in the mid forties and worked on farms around the town including ours. He was a strange and interesting man. He claimed to have spent part of his life in show business being the owner and trainer of a remarkable horse which did amazing things on theatre stages, both in Canada and the United States. He also claimed to have been involved with Mart Kenny and his Western Gentlemen. Whatever, he was a great story teller. He eventually became involved in the beekeeping business locally, produced excellent honey and was a holder of a patent for a steam heated decapping roller which worked quite well. He will be long remembered by those who knew him well.

Pete Jensen was another bachelor who spent most of his life in and around Westlock. His Scandinavian background had fitted him to be a sailor and he spent his early years at sea as a ship's carpenter. Pete had very interesting tattoo designs on his arms which fascinated my brother and me and our chums, and Pete enjoyed showing them to us and telling stories of how he acquired them and where. His skill as a carpenter was made use of on our farm many times in the building of barns, granaries and sheds and probably many of the buildings he helped to put together in this area are still in use. Another kind and generous man fondly remembered.

Working through Edgar Wood my father brought in some top notch registered York sows and a boar and for many years raised fine breeding stock. Some were performance tested for advance registry and won awards at the Lacombe experimental farm. One

sow established a record by giving birth and weaning 5 consecutive litters of 14. Oddly, she had been registered under the name of "Southview Lass 14x".

Archie Hollingshead, who was the AGT linesman responsible for telephone service over a vast area of which Westlock was the center, frequently engaged my father's services. When winter storms took out the lines and travel was impossible in his Model A, my father's team and cutter usually got Archie to the source of the trouble. On one occasion they had made their way up the Athabasca trail to repair lines and found it necessary to stay overnight at a farmer's place. The bed provided was in an upstairs room to which they retired after the evening pleasures around the kitchen stove. Houses were not insulated in those days and it got pretty frosty in upstairs rooms on cold nights. Archie took off his shoes and trousers and climbed into bed, without comment. My father decided at the last moment to make a quick check of the horses in the barn and upon his return asked Archie how he was doing and was reassured that he was most comfortable. Dad pulled off his shoes and pants, blew out the coal oil lamp and leaped into bed. When he landed he let out a roar and Archie burst out in gales of laughter. There was no mattress on the springs! My father chased him all the way down the stairs and on their return they brought along their mackinaws to spread over the springs and so endured a night that was not quite like being on a feather filled tick.

My father loved to hunt and was a crack shot with his Winchester shotgun and Remington 303 rifle. His well trained rat-tailed retriever "Major" would flush out prairie chickens and it was common to see him bring down four of five before they could get out of range. Major worked best in the water and was absolutely fearless. He would work to exhaustion retrieving ducks and would have to be leashed at times to keep him from drowning.

Deer were plentiful in the 20's and one fall Rod Westgate invited my father to come out to his place for a hunt. Dad positioned himself where a trail came out of the woods into a grassy area while Rod circled away up wind, planning to flush the deer down towards the opening. He had made his way back within a quarter of a mile of my father without seeing anything when he heard five quick shots. He hurried back to see what had happened and my father beckoned him to come and have a look. They made their way together through the grass and presently came upon a carcass. Rod looked around and saw another and another and then two more. With his eyes bugging in disbelief, he shouted, "My gosh, D. C., you got five of them!". My father smiled with a twinkle in his eye and exclaimed, "I ran out of shells."

Hockey became a most important activity in the early 20's. Skates had to be sharpened and my father installed Westlock's first skate sharpening equipment. For youngsters, it was always exciting to go to the back of the store to watch the sparks fly as Dios or Henry passed the blades back and forth against the spinning stone.

When hockey was first played locally my father took part but when those of great skill arrived — Don Stanton, Harold "Bo" St. John, Joe Dusseault and those of that ilk — he decided his best contribution would be in acting as manager. Hockey games couldn't be played without a referee and these were scarce as hen's teeth. My father studied up on the rules, equipped himself with a school desk bell and during the twenties, became quite well known for the influence he brought to bear on the conduct of games. He was esteemed for his fairness but on close calls, he gave the advantage to the visitors. As manager of the home team, in all fairness, he felt he could do little else. The visitors were always happy to come back, considering that they had been well treated.

If in sports my father's first love was hockey, certainly his second was curling. He became very expert as a draw curler, never enjoyed a contest more than when pitted against a similar opponent and in the 40's and 50's he skipped rinks in many Edmonton bonspiels. In one spiel he met another draw expert and the game was reported in the "Journals" sports page as a classic. He played to win but his first criterion was "to be a gentleman". In one of the Edmonton contests, he lost the coin flip and started the game by signaling for a guard from his lead. The rock was delivered "on target". The opposing skip put his broom down and called for a "take out". His lead missed, passing through the house. The skip exploded in a foul abusive tirade. Dad listened for a moment, then walked over to his own rock and slowly pushed it out of play. There were no more outbursts in that game.

During these early years my mother and father were deeply involved in the life of the village. With the birth of the United Church of Canada in 1925 and its C.G.I.T. program for girls, my mother organized and led the first group in Westlock. Almost all the young girls in the area who were of Protestant persuasion were members of a C.G.I.T. group at one time or another. During the late twenties, with the help of other leaders such as Laura Watt, Mrs. Polly McCullough, Mrs. Dorothy Colpitts, and Mrs. Beatrice Neilson, great summer camps were held at Island Lake near Clyde and at Lac La Nonne. During these years, my mother also taught Sunday School. In 1932, she became the first Cradle Roll Superintendent and with the help of Mrs. Marion Dezall



throughout the thirties enrolled dozens of babies who after their fourth birthday graduated to the Sunday School. This generated the base for a most successful school for the next several decades. During these years, she also found time to work with the Ladies Aid, the Women's Institute, and the United Farm Women of Alberta of which she later became a director.

Masquerade dances were a popular annual function in the twenties and were held in the Theatre Building with its raised platform for orchestras and good floor for dancing. There was one in particular which over the years, was frequently recalled by my father and mother when fun times were being recalled with old friends, around the supper table.

The arrangement on this occasion was that the ladies would dress at William "Mac" McCulloughs' and the men at Allen Neilsons' and when prepared, they would make their separate ways to the theatre. The wives were wagering that their husbands would be unable to recognize them. For some days, they worked busily with their preparations and when dance time arrived their concealment was superb. They even planned to dance poorly to add to the uncertainty and weren't above stepping on their partner's toes to add to the confusion. The men, who were rather easily identified, danced first with one and then another but never could be sure of who their partners were. When finally it came time for the judges to award prizes, the young wives were still unidentified. Excitement and conjecture peaked as they were called to the platform for the moment of revealment. The crowd clapped with delight when they removed their masks and the husbands were chided, "that they didn't know their own wives". The ladies teased their husbands about liberties they had taken during the dancing and the men defended by declaring, "they knew all the time". We children never were filled in on just how the wagers were paid.

My sister, Madge, has some special memories of these years:

"Our mother fed many a transient, some of whom were riding the rails, others winding their way to the Peace River country by whatever means were available to them.

I grew up considering it to be quite normal to have extra people in our home. Some were friends, others were strangers. Some were children, others were adults, either waiting for admission to the hospital in Westlock, or recuperating following hospitalization. The Westlock hospital had a good reputation and served a vast area. Even then there were few phones, especially in rural areas, and many families living a long distance from the hospital brought their sick to Westlock without having made arrangements

for hospitalization. If it was a non-emergency such as the expected birth of a child it was sometimes necessary for the prospective patient to find accommodation in town until the birth was imminent. Upon discharge from the hospital, it wasn't always possible for the patient to leave for home immediately. The family had to be notified and then had to travel to town perhaps by horse and buggy or sleigh, over roads that, depending on weather, could be almost impassible.

One such occasion is indelibly etched in my memory.

It was a beautiful summer Sunday morning. On our way to Sunday School (worship services were held in the evening), we noticed a woman sitting in the ditch, just outside the entrance to our lane. Those were the days when the Smith farm had a beautiful "lover's lane" which ran from our home, north to the base-line (now called the highway). When we returned from Sunday school she was sitting in almost the same spot. There was something about the situation which disturbed my mother. Typical of her, she went to speak with the woman and shortly thereafter brought her into our home. The woman did indeed need help. The situation in which she found herself was perhaps not usual, but at the same time, was not a typical.

Expecting a baby any day, she had been brought by her husband some forty miles to Westlock so that the birth might take place in a hospital. She was not young and he wanted her to have the best care possible. He had returned home to take care of the farm and the other children. The baby did not arrive as expected. Even if there had been room, she couldn't afford to stay in the hospital for more than the expected time in which to deliver the baby and recuperate. She had no way of contacting her husband to ask him to come for her. On that Sunday morning, she had been sitting on the roadside wondering what method she could use to do away with her life and that of her unborn child.

We kept the woman at our home for several weeks. Grandmother MacEachern and mother set to work to sew a layette, fashion a beautiful basinet from a laundry basket, and more importantly, to help the woman regain her dignity and sense of worth. She felt she owed her life to my mother and so when a healthy baby girl arrived, she was named Mabel.

There was no way in which this family could pay my parents; neither was it expected. Those still were the days when you helped a neighbour in need, whether or not that neighbour was known to you. But, for many years thereafter and in fact until the family moved to B.C., in the fall of the year, boxes of

wild blueberries and cranberries were brought to our home in grateful appreciation.

This particular story is but one of many which could be told, not only by a member of the Smith family, but by members of many other families as well. I tell it here perhaps as a way of honouring my parents and the manner in which they repeatedly opened their home to those in need, but more than that, as a method of once again underlining the homesteader, rural, small village sense of community of another time.

I grew up in Westlock when it was still a small village and I took for granted that sense of community. Today I realize just how fortunate I was."

In 1954, a group of local business men consisting of Hal Martin, Barney Hughes, Wilson Spragge, Pat Conkin, Dave Brown and an Edmonton man, bought six acres of land out of the NE of 32, east of the hospital, along the highway, formed a company to be known as Southview (Westlock) Ltd. and created the first modern subdivision on the Smith farm. This company was later taken over by the Smith family with subsequent subdivision. In 1977 the acreage around the old home was sold for the Co-op development. In 1978 the old house, with lumber in it nailed together in 1906, having been stripped and partially demolished, was burned down by the Westlock Fire Dept. as an exercise in fire control. So the last of the original buildings on this historic intersection was gone. In the early 20's the original Shutt home on the NE corner of this intersection burned down with the sad loss of all the relics and antiques that the Shutt family had brought with them from the Old Country. The IGA Shopping Center now covers this site. The Westlock Inn stands over the Joe Bibby home site on the SE corner of this intersection and the northwest corner never was built on until Esso erected its station. However, the old Westgate house, which was built several hundred yards to the northwest of this intersection, was moved to an area just north of the old homestead site and stands today as number 10216 on 101 Street.

My father and mother continued to farm and were active in community affairs until the 60's, when disabilities made it necessary for them to retire. The original home had been remodelled and with the modern conveniences of electricity, indoor plumbing, gas heating and television, their last years were very comfortable. They had ready access to and were well cared for by the fine doctors, health care and old age facilities which have become the hallmark of the town which had grown up on their doorstep.

My grandmother, Lovisa McEachern, lived with them until her death in 1965 at 93 years. My father died in 1968 and my mother in 1974. In the course of

their life time the area had been developed from a wilderness to a prosperous farming area, served by a beautiful town offering the important amenities of modern life. Their lives had been enriched by the friendship and interaction with the people this book is about, and on laying down their working tools they did so with justifiable pride and happiness at the opportunities now open to their descendents.

The Smith family continues today. My sister, Madge, has become well known in musical circles and has lived in Edmonton since her marriage to Jack McCready in 1957. Madge and Jack have two children — Marla and Pat. At the time of writing Marla lives in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Pat lives in Edmonton.

My other sister, Marion, followed her mother's footsteps in her interest outside her home. Marion married Robert Sutherland in 1942. Marion and Bob have three children — Donna, Ian, and Linda. Details of their family are carried in Marion's writings in this book.

My brother, Ray, as a teen was active in athletics and the reserve army unit, the 19th Alberta Dragoons. After a business course at Alberta College, he worked with International Harvester in Edmonton. When war broke out, he enlisted with the South Alberta Regiment. In 1940 he married Anne White of Edmonton and they kept company until Ray was posted overseas as a 2nd Lieutenant in January 1943. In 1944 he went into Europe with the 29th Canadian Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment and was killed in action in Belgium in September of that year. Ray had two school chums, Bill Clark and Les Brown, who were like brothers to him, and who hold fond memories of their fun times together.

I was born in my grandfather's original farmhouse. I started grade one in the Tin School House in 1923 and finished in the Brick School under George Bauer in 1933.

Thinking back to those school days there are a number of things that I remember: the smooth sensation when pumping a wagon down those two plank sidewalks, riding our sleighs down Stanton's hill, skating on the buttermilk pond, the shouting and banging and the sound of wood splintering as a team of horses pulling a wagon 'ran away' down Main Street, going to my first silent movie with appropriate live piano music played by Gladys Dunlop and Leo Crawford, early childhood camps at local lakes with the McCulloughs, Gardams, Turners, Heacocks and McLeans, the excitement of going to the Chautauqua in their big tent and being ever so turned on by a chorus girl's rendition of "Happy Days Are Here Again" and being brought to tears by a melodrama in which a distraught actor called out for his lover



“Moonyeen Moonyeen”, spectacular fires, especially the Imperial Oil Warehouse in 1926 when it seemed as though the world was in danger of exploding, our fears the world might be coming to an end the summer day it turned to night at mid day and rained mud, Scout camps at Lac La Nonne under Jack Illington, a superb Scoutmaster, rendezvous with Lawrence Armitage and Freeman Wood on horseback, the skirl of the pipes as the Edmonton Pipe Band would lead the Sports Day Parade down Main Street, playing hockey in the old covered arena when Jack McCrae and Len Clesson were caretakers, as a young hockey player being shown what the use of cigarettes could do to your insides as mentor Johnny Wuetherick blew smoke through a silk handkerchief, and reluctantly being exposed to boxing when Principal Fred Lynn acquired a set of boxing gloves. Those were the days of Dempsey and Tunney and it was thought particularly manly to be able to defend yourself. At recess time he ordered all the boys to form a big circle in the school yard. He then picked out two of equal size, ordered them to put on the gloves and to get out there and beat the tar out of one another. Under the threat of a good strapping we choose to mix it up as best we could. S’ le guerre as one of my friends writes.

None of us who were at school that day will forget how Robert Selfridge lost his grip on the rope of the ‘Whirl Around’ and was thrown to the ground so violently that he suffered a compound fracture of his leg. Mr. Simms, the school janitor, promptly took an axe and cut down the pole which supported it.

Writing of Mr. Simms, who will forget the first fire drills in the new brick school? The principal arranged these with Mr. Simms who was to sound the alarm at the chosen time. One day in mid-afternoon as classes were in progress there was a commotion in the corridor and through the windows in the classroom doors Mr. Simms could be seen running down the hallway shouting, “FIRE! FIRE!” and from some contraption he was wearing on his head as a hat black smoke was belching out like he was a steam locomotive under full load. There was no question about fire in the school that day.

When we had grown old enough to want to learn to dance and romance there were the exciting bowery dances at the Shaver farm and the parties in the Parish Hall sponsored by the Anglican Young Peoples Association. Mr. Lawrence Loree was the congenial floor manager and there was music supplied by James Alton, Allan McCullough, Lloyd Brown, Leo Crawford and sometimes Mrs. Bentley, on the piano. When there were drums these were played by Jack French and Ned Crawford and occasionally Harold

Brown played his violin. As a special treat sometimes Johnny Wuetherick played his trumpet.

Finally, there came that day in July when out of the Post Office box came the envelope in which were the results of my grade twelve departmental exams. With heart pounding it was opened and at a glance I knew that my school days in Westlock were over.

I spent 2 years at the University of Alberta and then worked with Maurice Lajarise in his radio and electric shop until the outbreak of the war. After graduating from a Vancouver Wireless School as a commercial radio operator, I worked during the war years for the Department of Transport on their Radio Range service at airfields in Western Canada. I married Edith Shaver in 1934. Edith and I have two children — Murray and Karren. Murray at the time of writing lives in Edmonton with his wife Marta Sherk and their two children — Melanie and Daria. Karren lives in Beijing, China.

### The Art McGlone Family

It was on November 11, 1933, that we came to our new farm, the SE¼-34-59-27-W4, in a bad snowstorm; in fact, some of our buildings were blown down.



A successful hunting trip, 1945. Art and Roy McGlone, Charlie and George Brown, Bruce Smith and Neil Campbell.

Art came from Egremont, Alberta, but was originally from Spirit Lake, Idaho, U.S.A. Charlie Leake, Ted Leake’s Uncle had homesteaded this land in 1905. It changed hands several times, until the Soldiers Settlement Board owned it. We bought it from them. George Miller was their agent at that time.

Our family consisted of Art, Zelda and Bruce; Gerry, Lois, Marilyn and Lynn were all born in Westlock.

A few years later, we acquired the quarter section across the Wabash, which was owned by Dr. Geddes.

Bruce is now the area manager for Ducks Unlimited; Gerry has a T.V. Sales and Service store and Real Estate Office in Westlock.

Lois (Boake), who lives in Edmonton, is a secretary at the M. E. Lazerte High School there.

Marilyn (Navratil) lives on an acreage near Bruderheim and is a secretary for a lawyer in Fort Saskatchewan.



A successful hunting trip.

Lynn has a gravel hauling business. There are fifteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

We moved here because the soil is much better than it was on our old place. Frost was too frequent there, too. The first thing we did was to plant trees for shelter. Our first crops were poor for lack of rain. We began raising hogs, having bought twenty-one pigs for \$20.00 before leaving Egremont. Hard times! We got enough grain to feed them, along with buttermilk from the creamery. After a few years, we changed to raising chickens and sold hatching eggs.

We had the first combine in the area — a Case — sold to us by Harvey Doherty.

In 1957, we started to sell Real Estate, a business we have continued to operate up until the present time. About a year ago we demolished the building we had used for an office for many years, and in its place have constructed a new, two-story building 75' x 60' which is divided into self contained areas, one of which houses our Real Estate office. The rest of the lower floor space is leased to Dave's Western World, Chatelaine Beauty Salon and the Farm Credit Office. At the time of writing this, the upper floor is still unfinished but plans are for more office space in that area.

## Art McGlone

In 1963 we opened the first coin operated laundromat, "McGlone Coin Wash". It was a successful venture until it was destroyed by fire in 1977.

McGlone Agencies was also in the construction business and built approximately thirty houses during the late 1960's and the early 1970's.



Art McGlone office building.

Our families now (Dec. 1982) consist of: Bruce and his wife, Olee, who nurses at the Auxiliary Hospital, and their three children, Lorrel, Greg and Dean. Gerry, his wife Hope, who assists Gerry at the T.V. shop. Their children are Rick, Wendy, Larry and Corinne plus six grandchildren. Lois, whose husband, Don Boake, works on the N.A.R. (now the C.N.R.) and their four boys Jerry, Clayton, Donnie and Gordon. Marilyn and her husband, Johnnie Navratil, who is a supervisor at the Redwater Fertilizer Plant. They have three children, John, Joan and Jean. Lynn and his wife Margo both drive gravel trucks. Lynn has a daughter, Chandra, from a previous marriage.

## Leroy Willard McGlone by daughter Ellen Bala

Leroy, better known as Roy, was born on January 20, 1902 at Trout Lake, Michigan, USA. Roy's parents and younger brother, Arthur, moved to Spirit Lake, Idaho, where three sisters were born: Mamie, Esther and Olive. Esther passed away in early childhood. Later, they all moved to Edmonton, Alberta.

They all became Canadian citizens on October 4, 1915. Roy's parents, Herman and Sylvia, homesteaded at Egremont on January 17, 1916.

Roy bought his first farm on April 5, 1922. It was one mile west and three quarters of a mile south of Egremont, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -24-58-22-W4. Roy paid \$1,-100.00 for the farm, with no buildings on it.

Roy met Ruth Ann Myers and they were married on November 7, 1924. They moved to Egremont, to Roy's parents farm to look after the livestock. Roy and Ruth's baby girl, Ellen Irene, was born on August 21, 1925.





Roy and Evie McGlone.

Tragedy struck on February 28, 1926. Ruth Ann passed away. Roy left his daughter Ellen with his mother and his married sister, Mamie Haight. He drove a taxi for a while then he became a waiter at the MacDonald Hotel in Edmonton in 1927.

Roy met Evelyn Emma Kabesh, and he and Evie were married on April 7, 1928. They moved to Vancouver where Roy got a job as a waiter at the Hotel Georgia. He missed the farm, so they had a house built on the farm and moved back. Ellen came to live with them.



Evie and Roy McGlone.

Roy, Evie, Ellen and Evie's Dad moved from Egremont to Westlock in 1940 to a farm 3 miles west and 2½ miles south of Westlock, the NE¼-22-59-27-W4. Roy purchased the same farm from Mr. Louis Fillion on July 4, 1942. He raised pigs and sheep on a large scale, and also had a few horses, cows, chick-

ens and 40 hives of bees. Ellen went to school at Hazel Bluff, then to Westlock High School. Ellen and Bruce Smith of Westlock were married in August, 1943. Roy's grandson, Kenneth Bruce was born August 13, 1944 and a granddaughter followed on July 13, 1945, named Diana Ellen.

Roy bought the farm, kitty-corner across the road on March 2, 1946, the SW¼-23-59-27-W4. It was mostly all trees and bush, but with the help of a bulldozer, Roy and Evie cleared the whole farm.

Roy wanted to see where he was born and where his parents came from in Kentucky and West Virginia, so he and Evie built a camper on their half-ton truck in 1945 and headed south. They met a lot of relatives and had a very good time. They decided that next time they would go in the winter time, as it was cold here, and they had no stock to take care of. They built another camper and spent six months travelling (usually November to April). They travelled to almost every state and to Mexico as far south as there were roads.

Ellen and Bruce were divorced in the early part of 1960.

In 1964, Roy and Evie built their last camper, with a bed over the cab. They travelled every winter for twenty years. Roy said it didn't cost any more than staying here in the winter and buying coal for the furnace.

The spring of 1966 Ellen met Harry Bala of Edmonton and they were married on October 7, 1967.

Evie passed away on April 20, 1968. Roy sold both farms and moved to Westlock. He passed away on October 8, 1976. Roy left two grandchildren: Dr. Kenneth Bruce of Ottawa, Ontario, who is a Chiropractor at Ormstown, Quebec, and Diana Ellen Burgett of Cranbrook, B.C. There are five great-granddaughters: Susann, Shirley, Mary and Linda Burgett, also Dionne Smith. One great grandson, Michael Smith. Roy and Evie enjoyed farming, travelling, hunting, fishing and many other things they did together. They had many friends who travelled with them.

### The McGregor Family

The McGregor Family came to Clyde about the year 1910 from Bruce County in Ontario. Their main town was Kincardine. Incidentally, the Sutherland family in Westlock came from the same area. Actually the oldest son Alex McGregor came first. He had asthma and felt the climate here would be better for him. The rest of the family followed later and constructed a house on the land then belonging to George Clyde. Most of them later settled in the Westlock area.

Alex was one of the original teachers at Edison school. He also worked in the H. W. Nickerson General Store. He later farmed at Westlock.

Isabelle married Jack Taylor and remained at Clyde. They had two children who are mentioned in the Taylor report.

Murd married Sarah Beaton. They had six children. Darcy was lost overseas during World War II. Margaret is married and living at Athabasca. Barbara, Merdina, Orville and Ray all live in Victoria.

Margaret married Jack McRae. They had three children. John was lost in World War II. Barbara is married and lives in Edmonton. Norma is married and is presently living in Montreal.

Lizzie married Kelly Davidson and later moved to Edmonton. They had two daughters. Doreen lives in Calgary and Shirley lives in Los Angeles.

Simon married Fern Swan and they settled at Pibroch. They had no children.

Alex, Murd and Simon all took part in soccer, which was the popular sport in the early days. Simon also played baseball, mainly with Pibroch.

The McGregor family were active participants in the early community and social events of the neighbourhood. They provided an impact on the general feeling of good-will and co-operation then prevailing. They brought the necessary pioneering spirit from Ontario which served them well in their new homes in Alberta.

son, Simon, and three daughters, Bella, Maggie and Lizzie. I believe they lived in Clyde for a short time before Mrs. McGregor took up a homestead west and north of Westlock, where she lived until her passing some years later. Alex McGregor was very active in the various lodges — Rebecca Lodge, Masonic Lodge — and spent many years as a Councillor, besides farming his land and his mother's. Alex remained single.



Grandma McGregor and her grandchildren. L to R: Darcy, Margaret McGregor, Grandma (Barbara) McGregor, Ray McGregor, Barbara McRae, Roy Taylor, Greta Taylor, John McRae. 1924.

## The McGregor Family by Margret Craig

In 1905, the first one to arrive from Kincarden, Ontario, was Alex McGregor who had a permit to teach school. He taught for a short time at Edison before going to Normal School to get his teaching degree. Shortly after him, Murdock McGregor arrived and for a few years ran a small store both in Clyde and at Hazel Bluff.

Next to come was Mrs. Barbara McGregor, one



Simon McGregor (right) in front of Wheatley's Garage, Westlock.



Right-hand drive car. Alex McGregor and Jack Taylor in back seat. Taken prior to 1913.



Murdock McGregor married Sarah Beaton from Clyde. Bella married Jack Taylor from Clyde. Maggie married Jack McCrae, one of the early settlers in the Edmonton area. Lizzie married Kelly Davidson from Westlock. Simon McGregor married Ferne Swan also from Westlock.

Murdock McGregor went overseas in World War I and after returning home, farmed for several years in the Westlock district. He then sold out and became a grain buyer for the Federal Grain Elevator at Pibroch until ill health forced him to retire.

Simon farmed in Pibroch district for several years until poor health forced him to retire.

Jack and Maggie were also in farming in the Westlock area. Lizzie and Kelly lived in Edmonton and ran a Barber Shop and Beauty Parlor.

Mrs. Barbara McGregor had thirteen grandchildren and two of her grandsons, John McRae and Darcy McGregor, lost their lives in World War II. All of Barbara's sons and daughters are gone now.

## **William McIntosh**

William McIntosh was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1877. He married Janet McDonald who was born in Inverness in 1879. He took up a trade in carpentry work and spent seven years at it, but work was slow and Canada, being a new country, inspired him to come to Winnipeg.

Things were not too good there so he came to Westlock in 1920 and still did a lot of carpenter work. He helped to build the United Church with the assistance of Allan Neilson. He was also away from home a lot building annexes to grain elevators.

Mrs. McIntosh was very active in the Women's Association of the United Church.

They had five children: Donald, who died of diphtheria in Winnipeg; Catherine, who married Leonard Clesson; Wilma, who worked in the Westlock Post Office for forty-five years; William (Tiny) who married Eva Chambers; and Douglas who became the husband of Lottie Craig.

Mrs. McIntosh predeceased her husband in 1946. Mr. McIntosh died in Grande Prairie in 1966. Catherine lived in Texas for many years and passed away there in 1981, on October 3rd.

Mr. and Mrs. McIntosh worked hard all their lives, even though at times it wasn't easy. They made a lot of lasting friendships in and around Westlock.

## **Clyde McKenzie by himself**

My father was born at Cumberland, Maryland, U.S.A. After graduating from school with honours, he was teaching school in Arkansas, where he met my mother. After they were married they moved to

Oklahoma to take up farming. Five children were born in Oklahoma. That state was susceptible to tornados. I often heard my mother tell about the cyclone cellars to which people would head when they knew a cyclone was coming. Mother didn't like the wind and wanted to move away. At that time there was a lot of advertizing about opening up Alberta, so Dad came to Canada and filed on a homestead at Mussell, Alberta, near Rosevear, in the Edson district.

Several of the other McKenzie families emigrated at the same time, moving their belongings by train. They crossed the border at Emerson, Manitoba. When they arrived at Edmonton they stayed at an immigration camp for several days while the men were buying horses, wagons and supplies for the homesteads. Here an epidemic of scarlet fever broke out among the women and children.

Homesteading was tough, clearing the land with the axe and breaking the ground with horses and a walking plow. During the first five years on the homestead three more children were born, myself being the youngest in a family of eight.

The land was poor and the crops were poor, so the homesteaders had to do a lot of hunting and fishing as well as trapping to keep food on the table. The other families in our neighborhood gradually moved away, and after seven years on the homestead, my dad was the last to go. He sold the farm for five hundred dollars, then moved to Bon Accord where he bought another farm. As there were only about twenty acres broken, the axe work and breaking began all over again.

As we lived about a mile and a half from Willow Springs School, I was nearly seven years old before mother let me start school. This turned out to be a good thing, as I made Grade I by Easter and passed Grade II at the end of June. It was a one-room school where the teacher taught eight grades. The teacher skipped me from Grade VI to Grade VIII, which I took in stride. I had completed Grade VIII when I was twelve years old. During my years in public school, the teachers conducted exams and filled out report cards every two months. I can only recall one report in the six years where I wasn't first in class. After sitting out for a year, Grade IX came to the school, so I was able to take it there. I took Grades X, XI, and XII by home study and obtained the high school graduation diploma.

When World War II came, the National Resources Mobilization Act was passed and put into force. Selective Service was established. On March 9, 1942, farm labor was frozen. It was only possible to get a job through the bureaucracy of Selective Service and approval of the Mobilization Board. In

the winter of 1942 I got a job with the C.N. Telegraph crew, building a line from Prince George to Prince Rupert. The gang stayed in bunk cars and parked on sidings at railway stations. As part of their military defence program, the U.S. Government made some contribution to the project. My job was digging holes with a bar, a shovel and a spoon. The pay was sixty cents per hour, which was considered good wages at that time.

While at Houston, B.C., I experienced the most dramatic drop in temperature I have ever seen. On Sunday afternoon, January 4, 1943, it was 50 F at four o'clock, and raining. On Monday morning when we went out to work it was 20 degrees below zero (F). That night, at six o'clock, we had a terribly cold ride back to camp on the speeder and flat car, with the temperature down to -35 F. By Tuesday morning it had dropped to -50 F so we didn't go out to work that day. In total it was a drop of 100 degrees F in forty hours.

I returned to the farm, that spring. The next winter I obtained a job with Coast Construction as a painter at the Namao airport, which was under construction as a joint Canada — U.S. military project. I returned to the farm in the spring of 1944. The war ended in August, 1945.

In April of 1946 I decided to move to Rutland, B.C., near Kelowna. I worked on a number of labor jobs there. I also did some apple picking and pruning trees. In 1947 my cousin started a construction company and hired me to keep the books. The auditor showed me, in three days, how to do the work of an accountant. I bought an acre of land and built a house, and my parents came to live with me in the winter.

The company was sold in 1950 to S. M. Simpson Ltd., a firm that was big in the lumber business. I was given a job as a clerk in a sawmill store. However, my employment was terminated in February 1952. Not being able to obtain another job, as the Okanagan Valley was experiencing a recession, I looked for work in other places in B.C. but was unsuccessful.

Consequently I moved back to Edmonton where, in a few days I was able to get a job as an accountant with a lumber yard firm. I worked there for a year until I received an offer of a job in Westlock.

I moved to Westlock in May of 1953 to take the job of accounts receivable clerk with Pembina Motors. The accountant left in a few months time so I took over that position which I held until the business dissolved in 1968. There was a change of ownership in 1966 and again in 1967.

Another move was necessary to take the job of accountant with Sands Ford Sales in Fort McMurray in November, 1968. However, I learned that a new

dealership was to start up in Westlock so, not liking Ft. McMurray too well, I applied for, and was successful in getting, the position of accountant with the new dealership, moving back in June, 1969.

The Ford Motor Company of Canada started the Dealer Accountants Honour Roll plan in 1954. I received Honour Roll recognition and certificates for sixteen years.

In October of 1971 I was employed by the Barrhead, Westlock, Thorhild Auxiliary Hospital as an accountant. I also did the books for the Nursing Home, and a third set of books for the Barrhead Nursing Home. With a combined staff of well over a hundred, payroll was a big item on this job.

In May, 1975, I became the accountant for Westlock Hardware Ltd., where I am still employed.

My interests being in sports, I have always been connected with baseball, softball and hockey. I have constantly reported sports and news to the paper. I was secretary of the Town of Westlock Parks and Recreation Board for four years, and secretary-treasurer of the Westlock Curling Club for twelve years. I have been treasurer of the Westlock Elks Lodge for eighteen years and played a big part in getting the cement grandstand built at the baseball park in Westlock. I have been a director of the Westlock Agricultural Society for twenty-five years. I started the Westlock Trades Exposition in 1970.

Recently I completed the writing of a book on "The History of Recreation in Westlock."

### **Stuart and Mary McLachlan submitted by Brenda McLachlan Gable**

Stuart McLachlan was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1885. He worked as a shipbuilder by the River Clyde until 1905 when he decided to follow his family and move to Canada. The Steamship "Ionian" took ten days to cross over to Montreal from Scotland. From Montreal they travelled by railway to Strathcona as there was no railway into Edmonton at that time. They moved north of Edmonton by team and wagon to George McLachlan's homestead where the family lived together for many years. The area was then known as Little Grande Prairie, but was later renamed Clyde after the River Clyde in Scotland.

In 1906 Stuart's father John, brother George, and a gentleman named T. P. Williams put in a request to Ottawa for a post office. They submitted three names — Kelvin (a great scientist), Clyde (the river on the banks of which the McLachlan family was born), and Summit (referring to the height of the land here). The Department chose Clyde.

The greatest difficulty encountered by those coming to the area was the complete lack of any sort





A successful hunting trip 1913 or 1914. In the car: Donald, Stuart, John, Andrew, Mrs. Catherine MacLachlan. In front: Mr. McAfee (car owner), Duncan Gray, George MacLachlan.

of roads. There were only trails with numerous mudholes. Many times the trails were so impassable that it was necessary to unload the wagons and have men carry the household effects on their backs. Stuart spent many backbreaking hours building roads in the area.

Stuart married Mary Malloy in 1916 and they homesteaded on the quarter section SE¼-18-59-25-W4 that he had purchased in 1905 for the sum of ten dollars. A few years later they purchased and moved to SW¼-22-59-25-W4. They had built a house across from George MacLachlan's residence. This house was moved by steamer to the new location where it still stands sturdy and is resided in by Brenda MacLachlan Gable, her husband Blake, and their three sons Jeff, Brad, and Kevin.

Stuart and Mary were very active in the community. Stuart was on the School Board for some twenty years, and also served on the Violet Hill Telephone Company with his wife Mary as secretary. He was a delegate for the United Farmers Association Co-op and belonged to the Dunganon Cemetery Board for twenty-five years. Mary was an active member of the Clyde United Church for over forty years.

As with all early settlers, life was hard. There were shortages of money, equipment, roads, and doctors. Stuart and Mary shared in hardships and heartbreaks. They lost their 2 year-old daughter

Catherine to Scarlet Fever and five other children at birth because of the lack of medical help.

Their son Gordon was born in 1927. He worked with his dad and lived on the family farm. He later studied at N.A.I.T. where he received a degree as a master electrician. He owned and operated MacLachlan Electric and remained working and living in the Clyde area all his life.

Stuart MacLachlan died in 1964 at the age of seventy-nine. Mary passed on in 1975 at eighty-eight years young. Their son Gordon passed away suddenly in 1979.

Gordon had three children. David and Diane are married and live in the Edmonton area. Brenda lives with her family on the family farm that has been handed down through the generations.

### **James McLaughlin Family History** **written by Dorothy McLaughlin**

James Getty (Jim) McLaughlin was born in Ballmoney, County of Antrim, Ireland.

Unhappy with life in the "Old Country" and bound for adventure in a new land Jim emigrated to Canada in 1900. He found work in the coal mines north of Edmonton. He also worked for a few years on the Breckenridge dairy farm which is now a part of North Edmonton.

He filed on a homestead in the area south east of Pickardville in 1905.



James and Ella McLaughlin, 1918.

Henrietta Spink (Etta) Gillanders was born in Aberdeen and grew up in Inverurie, Scotland. She came to Canada in 1912 with her brother William Gillanders, his wife Annie and their daughter Olive.

William set up a butcher shop in Edmonton and Etta went to work as a domestic. Eventually, Etta met Jim McLaughlin. They were married in 1918 and moved to the homestead to farm.

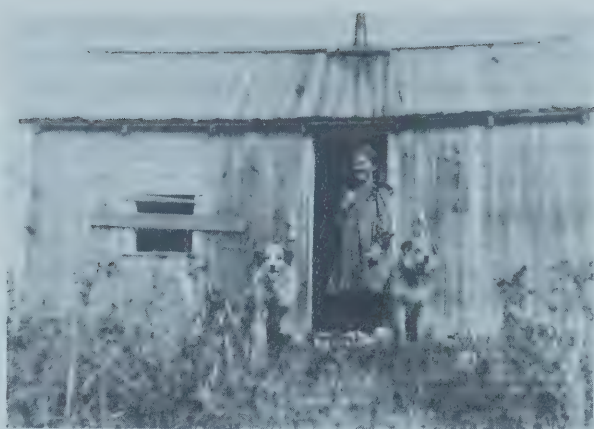
Jim was a fiery, energetic, little Irishman who ran when he became impatient with the pace of events.

Etta was a calm, quiet, kind and gentle lady who had been brought up with emphasis on things that were "right" and "proper".

Jim's mother and sister Cassie followed him to Canada. Cassie married William Cromie and they settled on a farm near Jim and Etta.

Jim bought more land just east of Pickardville and in 1928, began to build a new house to accommodate their growing family. They moved into it the following year.

They took an active part in developing their community. Jim donated land for a public school and sports grounds where for many years we had the best ball diamond north of Edmonton. They also helped in the building of the Presbyterian Church (now the United Church) in Pickardville.



Louise Watson with her dogs, Rough and Carlo. Our first home in Alberta, March 21st to December 16th, 1903.

Jim's hobby was gardening and he was known throughout the district for his beautiful peonies, dahlias, regal lilies and especially his gladiolas. His vegetable garden also was a joy to see.

Etta helped Jim with the gardens, cared for their family and milked her cows — her Scottish upbringing had taught her that this was woman's work and she did it with a will.

She also nursed Jim's aging mother who spent her declining years with them and lived to be ninety-nine years of age. When she passed on she was laid to rest in the Edmonton Cemetery.

Jim and Etta encouraged their children in Sports and saw to it that they all had bikes to ride — a fact that caused some envy among the neighbors' children.

Jim's small dimensions served him well when he was lowered into a well with a rope around his feet to save the life of a neighbor who had been overcome by gasses when he tried to save his brother.

Jim never looked upon himself as a "hero", but only wished he had been there sooner to have saved both men.

Jim's health was not good in later years and he spent some time in hospital and in a nursing home in Athabasca. He passed away in 1960 and his body was interred in the Pickardville Cemetery.

Etta spent her last years in a nursing home in Edmonton. She left us in January of 1980 and she also was laid to rest in the Pickardville Cemetery.

Their Children are:

1) **Robert William McLaughlin (Bob)** — Married Dorothy Watson.

I could write a book about this one — I am proud to have been his wife for the past thirty-nine years.

Bob was educated in the Pickardville Public School. He played hockey and baseball and enjoys recalling the time his team walked to Westlock, car-



rying their gear, to participate in a hockey game. How is that for dedication?

He was also an active member of the "Pickardville Glee Club." I met him in my first year at the Pickardville High School when a group of girls from the school was recruited for a chorus line in the Glee Club's production of a musical "Marrying Marian".

We also both sang in the United Church choir under the able direction of Mrs. Archie Wotherpoon. Mrs. Dick Smith was our organist at that time.

In 1938 Bob signed on as "cook" for the Burns and Rye group who were taking livestock to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. He thoroughly enjoyed the trip but from the tall tales about the cooking I'm surprised they brought him back!

We both took our turn as executive members of our Junior U.F.A. Local and I fondly (now) recall a meeting at which answers to the roll call were to be titles of favorite songs — I read his name and when he responded with "You're The Only Star In My Blue Heaven" the large membership roared with laughter. I blushed in confusion and we were a long time living that one down.

I was a member of the first grade twelve class taught in Pickardville. Later my sister Helen and I attended the Edmonton Normal School to become teachers.

Bob divided his time between helping his Dad with the farming and his job at Swift's Packing Plant in Edmonton.

Following graduation I taught grades one to nine in the old Vermilion Springs School and also in the Ellice School District near Bashaw.

Bob spent one winter logging in B.C.

In 1944 Bob joined the Canadian Army. We were married in September of that year and spent a few months in Calgary, Hamilton and Woodstock. In March of 1945 Bob was posted overseas; I spent a few months with my parents and then went to teach in the Clover Valley School. A year later Bob returned and we settled on his farm south east of Pickardville.

In August 1947, Bob bought a used truck to haul grain from the threshing machine. Soon the neighbors asked him to haul their livestock to market and a new dimension was added to our lives.

The trucking business made better communications necessary, so Bob interested some of the neighbours in forming the Pickardville Rural Mutual Telephone Company which thrived and grew until A.G.T. took over.

Bob enjoyed the challenge involved in running his own business so incorporated as McLaughlin Transport Ltd. He has moved many things — grain, livestock, hay, coal, posts, groceries, lumber, furni-

ture, pianos, old street cars and all kinds of petroleum products. We also handled bulk sales for B.A. Oil in Pickardville for many years.

We bought the Pickardville Garage to house and service our trucks. This proved unsatisfactory as the business grew, so Bob bought a lot and built an office and shop in the Westlock Industrial Park.

Bob also served on the board of the Pickardville United Church both as a steward and as an elder. In 1954, he organized a Sunday School and served as superintendent until 1964.

Bob was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Westlock School Division and served for eighteen years. He became Chairman when Mr. Ponting resigned and continued in that position until he retired. He also served on the executive of Zone 2 of the A.S.T.A. and was awarded a life membership in the Alberta School Trustees Association when he retired in 1977.

Ratepayers of Division 2 of the Municipal District of Westlock #92 elected Bob to represent them in 1962. He became Reeve when Grant Burroughs resigned and continued in that post until 1980. He worked diligently to improve the quality of life for residents of the hamlets as well as rural residents. He instituted garbage pick-up. He saw the installation of a water and sewer program for the hamlets and all weather roads to connect Busby and Pickardville to the highway.

Bob enjoyed this work and it was with regret that he gave it up when the pressure of his own business made it difficult to give the time he felt was necessary to do a good job.

We also found time to raise a family of four who have co-operated well to make the business a success. They are all good reliable citizens and we are justly proud of them.

**Wayne** married Linda Wlad. They have a daughter Jolene and a son Shawn. They live in Villeneuve.

**Dianne** married Larry Fuson. Their children are Carrie, Jeffery, and Laura. They live in Westlock.

**Barbara** married Ronald Holmes. They have a daughter Melanie. Their home is on an acreage east of Clyde.

**Cynthia** is single. She lives and works in Edmonton.

## II) **Mary Anne McLaughlin**

Mary is an enthusiastic, fun-loving sports woman who would ride a bike or a tots trike or do a Russian dance just for fun!

She was proud of her brothers' achievements in hockey and was herself a good skater and a very energetic and colorful softball player. Like her Dad she was inclined to run when walking was too slow.

She worked in Edmonton during the war helping to feed the Air Force.

Later she moved to B.C., married William (Bill) Clease and settled in Vernon. Bill worked for the B.C. Gas Company and Mary worked in a drugstore.

Bill's health failed and he passed away in November 1981. Mary still lives in Vernon.

### III) John Thomas McLaughlin

John also attended the Pickardville Public School. He was an enthusiastic hockey player.

John married Rose Zacek and continued his hockey career with a Westlock team. He farmed for a few years, then tried trucking.

Later he moved his family to Westlock where he worked in a tire shop.

John and Rose moved again and settled in Campbell River B.C. where he is involved in the Taxi business.

They have a family of three girls and three boys.

1. **Cheryl** married Ken Jendrick. They have one daughter Tanya, and they live in Westlock.

2. **Lynne** married Anthony Paget. They live in St Albert and have one daughter Holley.

3. **Judy** married Brian McConaghy. They have a daughter Kimberly and a son Kraig. Their home is in Sherwood Park.

4. **Johnny** married Margo Bruder and they live in Westlock. Their children are Jared, Lisa and Elliot.

5. **Terry** is single and makes his home in Edmonton.

6. **Timothy** is single and lives in Campbell River, B.C.

### IV) George Edward McLaughlin

George also attended school in Pickardville and began playing hockey when he was very young.

He married Delia Ouelette and they bought the old Holley house in Pickardville. Delia renovated this building and made it a very comfortable home.

George trucked for a few years. He also operated the Pickardville Garage for a while.

He organized an "Old Timers" hockey team which played against teams throughout Alberta and in Victoria, B.C., Quebec City, and Saskatoon.

George and Delia sold their home in Pickardville and bought his parents' farm. Here they raised cattle, grain and hay.

George again went into the trucking business with an office near Edmonton. He also sells used truck parts.

They have four children.

1. **Roxanne** married Alexander Martel. They live in North Vancouver. Their children are Tiffany, Alexandra and Jacques.

2. **Patty** married Alfred Cyre. They have a

daughter Angela and a son Robin. Their home is in Lloydminster, Sask.

3. **Scott** is single. He lives in Edmonton and is employed in oilfield work.

4. **Kelly** is single. She lives in Westlock where she works in the Bank of Montreal.

### The McLellans

Gilbert and Jessie McLellan and their four children, came to Canada in the spring of 1923 to settle in Pibroch. They came from South Uist, Scotland.

The children in the family were daughter Penny and sons Allister, Donald (Scotty) and Archie. Later, another son, Rodney was born in Canada.

Gilbert and Jessie had a lot of hardships when they started on the farm as they had little to work with and next to nothing when it came to money.

With great determination and lots of hard work they managed to raise their family, even though at times it was difficult to "make ends meet."

As time went on, things got somewhat easier and conditions improved.

Archie, Scotty and Rod served in World War II. All are now deceased. Gilbert and his wife Jennie are also deceased. Penny and family live in Vancouver, B.C.

Allister owns and farms the original home place, and he and his wife live in Westlock.

### Don McMillan Family

by Don McMillan

I was born on June 2, 1940, the second son of Tom and Evelyn McMillan. Many things come to mind of my childhood.



Don and June McMillan on their wedding day.





Don McMillan Farmstead.

Dad nearly always had hired men, some of whom were pretty rough and ready! Not being old enough to know better, I would pick up some words that weren't fit to be repeated. Anyhow, I must have said a choice word in front of my mom at one time, although I don't remember what it was, but I sure remember the taste of Lifebuoy soap!

I started school at Vermillion Springs school which was about a mile and a half walk from home. That was quite a walk for a six year old, but I had my older brother, George, to keep me company. There came a time when big brother was sick and I had to go to school by myself. It was terrible. I cried all the way except for the last hundred yards or so. By the time I got into the school yard my eyes were dry, but I'm told they were still very red. Most of the time we rode a horse called "Nellie" and in the winter time she pulled us in a cutter. In the spring when I was in Grade III, the old school closed down and we moved to Busby school, where I went through to Grade IX. I went to High School in Westlock.

After I got out of school, in 1957, I stayed at home to farm along with my dad and brother. At that time we farmed about 350 acres and had some pigs, milk cows, a few chickens, a herd of about 30-40 cows and a team of horses. From this start we gradually expanded some enterprises and did away with others. George took over the egg production business

at his place and I expanded into hogs. We farmed the land in a partnership and had the herd of cattle together, too.

On August 31, 1963, I married June Sterling, daughter of Len and Jenny Sterling of Westlock. We moved into a new home across the driveway from my parents' home.

We have two children, Tom, born September 1, 1964 and Linda, born May 23, 1967.

## **George E. and Ivy McMillan story for Westlock History Book**

### **George McMillan**

I was born and raised on my parents' farm (Tom and Evelyn) on N.W. ¼-5-58-26-W4.

I attended school at Vermillion Springs until I reached Grade 8 in 1948. Brother Don and I went through a succession of retired workhorses as our means of transportation. We boarded some teachers at our home, Marge Shamchuk and Sophie Derko being the ones I remember. They, of course, shared in the trials and tribulations of riding in buggy and cutter, freezing in winter and the odd run-away, etc.

When we were old enough, Don and I took on the janitor work at school. We were fortunate to have Dad to help us out when things got tough.

When Vermillion Springs closed in 1948, we



George and Ivy McMillan holding Cliff and Gwen.

moved to Busby School. I stayed there from mid Grade 8 to Grade 10, then went to Westlock in 1950 for Grades 11 and 12. We were the first Busby students to be bussed to Westlock.

After finishing Grade 12 I went to Vermillion School of Agriculture for two years, graduating in 1955. Then I came home and began farming with my Dad. We bought S.W.¼ 17-58-26-W4 from Eddie Litzenberger in 1956.

On Friday, November 13, 1959 I married Ivy Oldenburg of Busby and we moved onto my Uncle Alex's (George A. McMillan) farm S.½ 4-58-26-W4 which we subsequently bought and where we have lived ever since. Over the years we built three six thousand bird layer barns and in 1974 built our new home. (It took about the same amount of market hogs to build our home then as it did dad to build his back in 1933.)

We have two children, Clifford and Gwen. They both attended school in Busby and Westlock. Cliff worked for R.S. Line Construction for 1 year, then went on motorcycle trip around the U.S.A. for two months, then returned home to go farming with us in fall of 1979. Gwen studied Accounting at N.A.I.T., a two year course, graduated with honors in May of 1982 and is now working for Bailey, Foulks-Jones, Lundell in Edmonton.

Don and I have always worked together. Ivy and I decided to specialize in producing eggs, while Don stayed with feeding hogs. We also grain farm. In 1977 we bought another farm from Frank Richardson

S.E.¼ 2-58-27-W4, with laying hens. This boosted our total flock to 26,000 birds. Here we also grow all our own replacement pullets.

Over the years we have participated in 4-H, Uniform, Co-op Association, W.I., Church groups and I am presently involved with the Alberta Egg Marketing Board.

We love our home and community and hope to live here many more years. If and when we decide to retire it will be right here.

## The George Alex and Kitty McMillan Family

by George Alex McMillan

In December 1936, my brother Loyd was married and in the spring of 1937, Mother and I moved to the SW¼ 4-58-26 W4, two miles south of the home place.

After seeding we went to Ontario with Loyd and Ida, and an uncle and his granddaughter from B.C. We went to visit relations, see the Dionne quintuplets and pick up my new car at the Windsor factory. We went by the all Canadian route which was dusty and rough gravel in those days.

After the Farmers Maple Leaf Band disbanded, I played with the Westlock and District Band for several years. It was a mixture of boys from Barrhead, Clyde and Westlock districts. Our leader was Mr.



George (Alex) and Kitty McMillan.



Wahl from Barrhead. The highlight of our careers was in 1939 when we played for the Queen on Kingsway Avenue at the Coronation celebration. We also played in the Edmonton Exhibition parade for several years.

On October 19, 1938, I married Kitty Nicol from Barrhead district. After the wedding, Mother went to Ontario to visit her sisters and we met her in Listowel for Christmas. We left Toronto after New Year's and Mother went with us to Texas and then on to California, where she stayed with her brother. We arrived home on March 15, 1939. The snow was deep that year and the roads were blown in. We had to plough a road in to our place from my brother Tom's, in order to move in.

We started farming with horses and eventually got a tractor and the necessary equipment to farm our three quarters. We cleared and broke up quite a lot after we were married. By the time we left the Westlock area we had about four hundred and twenty acres cultivated.

Kitty became a good farming partner. She drove the car and tractor as well as anyone. One year we had summerfallow on one field, and a nice patch of Canada thistles came up. It was close to Ralph Johnson's, so when Kitty was out discing the field she was determined to "get" those thistles and she went around and around until Mr. Campbell (Mrs. Lila Johnson's Dad) told Lila he didn't know about those kids farming, he was sure Kitty didn't know how to steer that tractor home!

We used to grow a lot of raspberries which we picked and sold. One year we had so many we decided to have a raspberry social for the Church. We made ice cream in the hand-turned freezers and with everyone's help it was a real success. Kitty was really pleased when friends from Edmonton drove in.

There were plenty of good causes in those days, too. First was Busby Co-op Store. Bill Munro and I travelled the district to get members and loans to build a building and stock it. We were able to get the store started and it served the Busby area for many years. Next was telephones. Our new neighbours, the Grieners, were disappointed that we had no phones. I had been trying (without much luck) to get some interest in telephones, so Walter was a good ally. We decided to do something. The A.G.T. had abandoned many lines that had been built before the depression. We found we could have them for taking them down, providing they were to be used for telephone lines. We formed the Busby Telephone Company and those who were interested in telephones helped move the lines from the Sion district and rebuild them for ourselves. We were connected to the

Busby central. It was a good company and served the community until the A.G.T. got interested again.

Next was the school bus issue. After many meetings we were successful in getting our children bussed into Busby school. It was the first step toward better school for our children and better roads for the farming community. In the years since, it had meant availability to High School and better opportunities for all the farm children.

We had many interesting experiences and made lifelong friendships during the twelve years Kitty and I farmed at Westlock. We had good crops and poor ones, were hailed put completely with a brand new binder just set up in the yard. We almost lost our oldest son through sickness but thanks to Dr. Woodman, he recovered and we raised three children. We look back at the years we spent in the Westlock community as probably the hardest and likely the most rewarding years of our lives. Our children were small, and most of our friends and neighbours had small children, too, so we shared our joys and heartaches and everything that makes life. We hope that during those years we did something for the community, as it was good to us.

In October, 1950, we rented our farm to Dick and Kay Nicol and moved to Edmonton, where we lived ever since.

### **Kitty (Nicol) McMillan by Kitty**

I moved to the Westlock area from the Barrhead district when I married George Alex McMillan.

I joined the Echo Hill Women's Institute in 1939 and had some wonderful times, and made many friends.

When the farmers went on strike and we had so much cream around, my sister-in-law, Ida McMillan and I made butter in my brand new washing machine. It proved to be quite successful, and much easier than doing it by hand.

We had three children: Wayne and Joan who both reside in Edmonton, and Gordon in Vancouver.

We moved to Edmonton in 1950 and are still there.

### **The George and Maggie McMillan Family by Loyd and George (Alex) McMillan**

Our Dad, George McMillan, came to Alberta in 1901. At that time, it was known as the North-West Territories. George was born on a farm in Altoona, Kansas, on May 28, 1876. He was educated to be a school teacher but chose to go to sea. He worked on ships in Argentina, Brazil, England and Scotland, South Africa and in Montreal, Canada. He also did ship work in Vancouver for a while, then went back



George and Maggie McMillan, April 3, 1907. Wedding photograph.

to San Francisco, where he worked in a sugar factory, then later went to work with a survey party in the San Joaquin Valley in southern California.

Dad arrived in Edmonton one day with two dollars and a bicycle. It didn't take him too long to realise the bike must go, so he sold it. (Someone surely must have thought the roads would improve!) He got a job on a survey party and they surveyed Township 58. In 1902 he filed on the NE¼ 8-58-26 W4, a quarter-section of the land he helped to survey.

Dad had two brothers who homesteaded in the district. Jim filed on the NW¼ 8-58-26 W4 in 1902. He died in 1909 and is buried at Busby. His family went back to the United States. Tom homesteaded two miles south of Jim's place in 1903. The trail came through Riviere Qui Barre to Independence, then up to what is now the Vermilion Springs district then continued on to the Edison (Westlock) district.

Our Uncle Tom was a bachelor, but he kept a stopping place for the years he stayed in Canada. He went back to the States before we can remember, but he named his stopping place and farm "Echo Hill". When Mr. Caton bought the farm and eventually had the Post Office it was naturally called Echo Hill.

In those days, many oxen were used. Sometimes an ox and a horse would be used for a team. There were several sawmills in the area between Indepen-

dence and Edison, and homesteaders were the people who worked in the mills and hauled the lumber to market in Edmonton. Dad got the patent for his land in 1906 and from then on it was strictly farming for him.

Our Mother, Margaret (Maggie) Lentz, was born in Trowbridge, Ontario on May 18, 1880, and came to Edmonton with her mother, Helena Graham, in 1903. They came to cook and keep house for Mother's brother, George Lentz, who had homesteaded four miles north of Edmonton on the north-west corner of what is now 127th Street and 137th Avenue, known then as the Turnip Lake district. Our Grandmother cooked and Mother supplied much of the meat with her shotgun. There were plenty of partridges and prairie chickens around, and ducks on Turnip Lake in summer. The first duck she shot, she ran into the lake up to her neck with her clothes on to get it. In those days hunting was a necessity and you tried to make every shot count for at least one or two birds. Mother's brother, Alex Lentz, homesteaded the NE¼ 30-57-26 W4 in the Independence (now Busby) district, and was Dad's neighbour.

During the winters of 1905 and 1906, Alex Lentz and Dad hauled hay to the livery barns in Edmonton. On the return trip they stayed at Alex's brother George's place, where there was room to stable the horses.

On April 3, 1907, George McMillan and Margaret Lentz were married in a double wedding ceremony, with Alex Lentz and Pearl Reid. Mother and Dad had three sons, Tom in 1908; Loyd in 1910 and Alex in 1914.

Dad was active in community affairs. He supplied an acre of land for the Vermilion Springs school, District #1619, of which he was the first secretary-treasurer. He worked at getting an Agricultural Society in Busby in 1917, also the first Busby hall, the cemetery one half mile north of Busby, and



George McMillan homestead, 1907.



was Councillor of the Hazelwood Municipal District #549.

It was always Dad's ambition to have a good herd of Holstein cows, so the closer he came to having his dream come true (1920) the more cows we had to milk, and all by hand, too! After the Northern Alberta Railway came, in 1912-13, we could take the cream to Pickardville to ship to Edmonton. Before that we took it to Legal.

When Dad came to this district, the closest store and post office was at Riviere Qui Barre, some twenty miles south. In 1903, John Shoveller started a store and got the post office which was named Independence, which was about nine miles away. Our next Post Office was at Egg Lake, at Mr. Logan's, which was a little closer. La Calomette Post Office was next, in 1908; it was four miles east. The Postmaster was H. (Bob) Fawcett. He seems to have been a real tough gentleman, as he always wore a Colt 44 revolver on his hip. La Calomette Post Office was never robbed! Our last district post office was Echo Hill, with Mr. Caton as Postmaster. Echo Hill operated until the mid-twenties, when we got rural mail delivery from Pickardville.

Dad enjoyed working in his flower garden, which was one of the best in the district. With all those flowers, the boys couldn't pass up a good thing, so we started the Cloverdale Seed House (Dad's farm was the Cloverdale Farm). We printed seed envelopes with a small printing press and packaged seeds of many different varieties and sold them to the neighbours. One year we published a seed catalogue and we had a very good year. Alex being the youngest, was given all the important jobs, like cleaning up, etc.

We're not sure whether Dad used oxen, but Tom and Loyd did. They had a black steer trained pretty well. He would pull a sleigh with all the boys in it (When he felt like it) and when he wouldn't go the remedy was to put Alex out in front to run down the road. It seems the ox didn't like Alex, and vice versa, so he would take off after Alex and everything was moving again. Alex never did like oxen.

When our folks were first married, water was very hard to find on the farm. The wells they dug by hand had very little water, so they had to haul water for the house and water the stock at the Vermilion river, (now Redwater River) which ran through their place. They also had to catch rain water and melt snow in the appropriate seasons. In a few years Dad found a spring which was run through a pipe for at least sixty years. In later years he found good water wells in the yard, too.

Through the years our folks acquired several quarters of land and were well respected in the com-

munity. About 1925 our folks got their first radio, a five-tube Marconi, with a ship speaker. Surely the pride and joy of the McMillan family! We had to take the battery, (a six volt car battery) to Busby or Pickardville to have it recharged. Later, we got an extra battery so that we would not have to be without "Amos and Andy."

1926 was the year for our first tractors, a John Deere Model "D" and a "Fordson". We also got our own grain separator, a 21 inch "Hummingbird", which needed three stook teams to keep it supplied, and twenty days of good weather to do our own threshing. We used it many years. In 1928 another John Deere tractor was purchased as well as our first car, a Pontiac sedan. It must have been a good car, for it was in our family for twenty years and still runs.

By this time our folks could take a little easier than in the early days. We were all nearly grown up and did the field work so Dad had more time to work in, and enjoy, his garden. Mother eventually gave in to getting a power washer, too, but their good fortune was not to last. In December, 1931, Dad was hauling grain to Pickardville with a team and sleigh. On the way home, at dusk, a car hit the sleigh box and knocked it and Dad on to the road, breaking his neck at the shoulders. The team came home by themselves and we went looking for Dad. The man who had hit him had taken him to the Westlock Hospital. Two days later, they sent him in to the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. He was paralyzed from his shoulders down but could talk and think clearly. He told our older brother, Tom, everything he must do after he was gone. Dad died on the third day. He was fifty-six years old. He was buried in the cemetery at Busby.

It was a sad Christmas that year. We were all grown up, so in 1932 and 1933 we all farmed together, with Mother. In November, 1933, Tom married Evelyn Wiedrick, who lived in our district. They started their new home on the NW¼ 5-58-26 W4. Mother, Loyd and Alex farmed together until December, 1936, when Loyd married Ida Krull, from Chipman. They stayed on the old homestead and Mother and Alex moved to the SW¼ 4-58-26 W4, where they farmed until October, 1938, when Alex married Kitty Nicol from Barrhead.

During the next years Mother travelled quite a bit and made her home with all of us. Her back became worse through the years and she went from using canes to wheelchair. I guess that was part of the price of the hard early years of helping to build Alberta. She finally had a stroke which disabled her more, and she spent her last years in a nursing home; a year in Westlock and the remaining years in Allen Gray in Edmonton. She died at the age of ninety-one years in

1971, and is buried beside George in the cemetery at Busby which he helped to organize so many years before.

## **Hugh and Vinita McMillan by daughter Dorothy Dehnke**

Our dad, Hugh McMillan, was born in the state of New York in 1889. While still a small boy, his folks, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander McMillan moved to eastern Ontario with their nine children. Later they started west and ended up at Clive, Alberta. Our dad, being the youngest boy, worked on the farm with his dad.

Our mother, Vinita Conrad, was born in North Dakota in 1900. She was one of a family of six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Conrad. They moved to a Swedish district at Tees, Alberta. Mr. Conrad passed away and a few years later Mrs. Conrad remarried to become Mrs. Gillespie and one more son was born.

Our father and mother, Hugh and Vinita, were married in Clive, and lived on the McMillan place until 1926. They had five children. When they started north, stopping at Edmonton, they stayed at a boarding house owned by Mrs. Dorsey. She told them of the great country around Busby, so they loaded up and started north. Mrs. Dorsey had a farm at Busby and also two nephews, John and Arthur Williams, so we went to the store he owned and he let us live in one of his houses located three-quarters of a mile west of Busby. We were there till April when we moved to the Dorsey farm with the intention of buying it. Russell Thompson owns it now. Our dad cropped it that year and Gertie and I started at Advance school. Being young, I thought the teacher was mean to Red Jennings, who chewed gum. She made him go to the front of the class and draw a big circle on the blackboard, with a smaller circle within it. He then had to put his gum in the middle and put his nose in it!

At the end of June the Advance school closed and in September, Gertie, Sarah and I started at Trail's End School which was two and three-quarter miles away.

On the 8th of February, 1928, our brother Angus was born. When he was but twenty days old, our father passed away in the old Westlock hospital. That was the end of buying the Dorsey place and we had to move into the old Stone place, just three quarters of a mile west. There we stayed a few years with the Arthur Williams across the road. There were very few cars then, and we walked almost everywhere as we had no transportation. Though we were back in the bush, we did have fun. There was the odd house party around. With the six of us and five of the Williams, we had enough to play scrub ball, and if more kids came we played hard ball. Then there was

a nice hill where we would go sleigh riding in the winter time and ponds where we could slide on the ice as we never owned skates until years later. When our parents would go away and leave us home on a Saturday or Sunday we could even end up in a good fight. By the time the parents got back home, everything would be O.K.

From the Stone place we moved into Busby to live in a suite under the store owned by John Williams and later by Mr. McCoombe. Gertie, Sarah and I finished our education in Busby Elementary and High School in the United Church in Busby.

In 1935 we had to move again, so we took up residence in the Crusher place. The boys went to Independence school for three years, then we made another move onto the old Reeve place, and from there the boys attended the Busby Park School. Stanley went to war, and Mom bought the place that Boomer Young owns now. Clifford worked it for her. Times were certainly hard, but looking back now, we enjoyed it all. There were lots of dances and house parties, with music being supplied by anyone who could play an instrument. Everyone took lunch and a good time was enjoyed by all, often lasting into the early morning hours. The war ended and Stanley came home to run the farm. Mother moved to Busby and worked in the store for a few years.

Gertie married Ronald McConaghy and ended up being the only Busbyite of us all. They had six children and twelve grandchildren. Ronald passed away on May 20, and is buried north of Busby.

Dorothy married John Dehnke. They had five children and six grandchildren, and reside in Winfield, B.C.

Sarah married George Hemeryck and lived four miles east and two miles north of Busby. They moved to Westlock about ten years ago, had three children and seven grandchildren. Sarah passed away September 2, 1982 and was buried north of Busby.

Stanley married Audrey Green. They farmed for a while then moved to Edmonton. They had six children and eleven grandchildren. A young daughter, Colleen, passed away and was buried north of Busby.

Clifford married Arlene Jardine and lived in Busby until they moved to Edmonton. They had three girls and have three grandchildren.

Angus and Mom lived together at Busby — she working at the Co-op store and he on the railroad. They later moved to Edmonton and mother kept foster children, one being Keith. Keith had been with Mom eleven years when Angus adopted him. Later that year he married Hertha Schreiber. She had three children. This year (1983) on April 24th, Keith passed away in Kelowna, B.C.



When Angus married, Mom went to live with Gertie. For a couple of years they raised and butchered chickens. Deciding there was an easier way to make a living, Gertie went to work at the Senior Citizens' Home in Westlock and Mom took up residence in an apartment in Edmonton. Once the apartment became too much for Mom to look after, she moved into McQueen Lodge. In December, 1981 she took ill and had to go to Norwood Extended Care Unit. She is eighty-three years old now.

## Loyd and Ida McMillan

by Loyd McMillan

I was born June 3, 1910, second son of George and Margaret McMillan. My pre-school years were spent on the farm playing with my brothers Tom and Alex, and pets. As neighbors weren't too close, the only time we played with other children was when visitors came or we went visiting.

Once we started to school at the Vermillion Springs school, a quarter mile from home, we had more friends. In my early school days the number of days the school was open depended on the finances of the district — sometimes two or three months — sometimes six months, but rarely the full year until we got into the 1920's.

The old swimming hole in the creek that ran through a nearby farm was a great attraction every

spring. The boys grabbed their lunch pails and headed for the creek as soon as dismissed at noon. The girls always threatened to come but they never did as they knew it was a nude party. Most of the district boys learned to swim there.

Christmas concerts were another highlight in every school-child's life. The adults enjoyed them as much as the children, I think. The district people always seemed very helpful and generous in providing small gifts and candy-bags for the young folk. Concerts were often scheduled for successive nights, so persons could attend as many as they wished.

When Tom and I were about twelve and ten years old, we were janitors of the school. Our duties were to light the fire, provide a pail of water for drinking and washing, sweeping and dusting up after school, for ten cents a day. Inflation must have been on its way then as Marion Rosendale, who was the janitor before us, got five cents a day and ten cents on cold days when she had to start the fire!

I graduated from Grade 8 in 1924 and was quite happy to get the rest of my education on the farm working with my dad and brothers. Brushing and breaking new land was a part of each summer's work along with the regular field work and farm chores. We always milked quite a few cows, by the standards of those days. Winter's work always included hauling wood from the bush, sawing it into stove length pieces, then splitting and piling it for next year's fuel. Work was hard but the satisfaction more than compensated. We had our fun times, too, such as neighborhood baseball and hockey, skating, picnics, local fairs, berry-picking, card parties and even local talent in plays, concerts, etc.

It was a great day for us boys when Dad bought a Fordson tractor and Humming Bird thresher in 1926. Then in 1928 we got our first car, a steel-wheel John Deere tractor and breaking plow.

We all farmed together until 1933 when Tom started on his own. Alex and I farmed together until 1936 when we both started out on our own.

In 1936 I married Ida Krull, a school-teacher who grew up on a farm near Chipman, about thirty miles east of Edmonton. Her parents came from Holland and lived for a while in Massachusetts, then came to Alberta when she was about three years old. She received most of her schooling in Chipman, later attending Camrose Normal School and took summer courses at the University of Alberta.

Since grain was very cheap in 1936 we decided to raise more hogs, so we built a new hog barn, fairly modern for those times. We had an overhead water tank in it, into which water was pumped by a gasoline engine. Thus water was available to the pigs at all times. In 1940 I bought my first rubber-tired tractor



Loyd and Ida McMillan family. Front: Ida and Loyd. Back: Neil and Melville.



Loyd McMillan farm home.

— a John Deere “D” that pulled a four-bottom plow. The price was \$1460.00 which we thought was high as wheat was only sixty-cents a bushel. This tractor was a pleasure to ride after being used to the steel-wheeled one.

I always dreamed that someday I’d quit milking and have a beef herd instead, so in the fall of 1942 I was at the stockyards in Edmonton delivering a truckload of hogs when I saw a pen of 22 Black Angus heifers for sale at seven cents per pound. I bought them. This was the beginning of the Angus herd that is still on the farm of our son Neil and his wife, Wanda, in 1982.

Over the years we acquired more land and built more buildings as the need arose to accommodate grain, machinery and livestock.

In August, 1943, our first son, Melville Loyd arrived and in March 1945, our second son, Neil Raymond completed our family. Both boys went by bus to Busby school until they completed public school, then attended Westlock High School. After graduation they both attended University of Alberta. Melville received his Master’s in Economics and later attended Cornell University, New York, for his Doctorate. Neil graduated from U of A with a B.Sc. in Agriculture, then took two years at Vermilion College majoring in mechanics.

Melville married Maureen Conkin, a laboratory technician. They have a family of two: Lara Christine in high school and Brian Cameron in junior high. Melville is a professor at the U of A at present.

Neil married Wanda Britton, a nurse, and they have a family of two: Kevin Michael and Heather Fay, both pre-schoolers. Neil and Wanda have taken over

the farming operation. They are the third generation on the land that George McMillan, Sr., homesteaded in 1902.

In 1952 we seeded the first crop of rapeseed to be grown in the area. It was grown under contract with a company in Saskatoon as the local elevators were not handling rapeseed at the time. I trucked it to the Edmonton grain terminal. The crop yielded better than twenty bushels per acre and the contract price was five cents per pound.

We have taken part in community activities over the years. We attended, served and supported the Busby United Church. We helped build and maintain the Busby Curling Rink which provided much enjoyment for the community for a number of years. I was a member of the Busby Co-op, the U.F.A., and served as a trustee on the Vermilion Springs School Board. I assisted in organizing the Legal Farm Electrification and was active with 4-H for a number of years. Ida has been a member of the Echo Hill Women’s Institute and United Church Women since our marriage.

Since 1976 we have lived in Westlock. I still enjoy going out to the farm and Ida enjoys her church and volunteer activities here.

## Neil and Wanda McMillan

Neil McMillan, second son of Loyd and Ida McMillan, was born at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton on March 10, 1945. He and his brother Melville were raised on their parents farm which was the original homestead of his grandfather, George McMillan.

Neil received his primary schooling at Busby then attended high school in Westlock. He later attended Vermilion School of Agriculture and the University of Alberta from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1971. Following this he spent some time as a government employee in the Peace River area and a short time in the High Arctic before deciding to farm. He was always keenly interested in sports, both at school and since, actively participating in ball and curling.

Things carried on as usual until 1974 when he met Wanda Britton in Edmonton. She was born in Bobcaygeon, Ontario, May 11, 1949 to Meta and Orville Britton who had two sons Hugh and Herb. She attended a one-room school for five years, then to Bobcaygeon till finishing Grade eight and Fenelon Falls for high school. She took her nurses training in 1967 in Peterborough Civic Hospital which included four month’s affiliation with Sick Children’s Hospital at Toronto. She graduated in 1970. Following this she was employed at the Greater Niagara Falls General





Neil, Wanda, Kevin and Heather McMillan, 1983.

Hospital. Then, she and a classmate came to the Edmonton University Hospital.

Neil and Wanda were married in Edmonton on November 22, 1975. After returning from their honeymoon they took over the home farm. They are the third generation on the George McMillan homestead.

They have two children. Kevin was born June 29, 1980. He is a real helper, loves the outdoors and machinery. Their second, Heather, born October 19, 1982 is anxiously trying to learn how to walk.

They have a small herd of registered Angus as well as a commercial herd. The cultivated acreage is mostly pasture, hay and cereal crops.

### **The Thomas McMillan Family by Evelyn McMillan**

Thomas Clifford McMillan, eldest son of George and Margaret McMillan was born July 6, 1908. He grew up on his parents' farm N.E. ¼ 8-58-26-W4. He went to Vermillion Springs School which was on his father's farm.

After finishing school Tom farmed at home until



Tom McMillan and family. L to R: George, Evelyn, Tom and Don.

1933. That summer he was busy building a home on his farm on the N.W. ¼ 5-58-26-W4. The home costing around \$900.00. Tom hired a carpenter but did a lot of the work himself. On November 15, 1933 Tom and I, Evelyn Wiedrick, were married and moved into our new home. The grounds around the house looked like the prairie so we had a lot of work ahead of us, planting trees, hedges, berry bushes etc. Tom was very fond of gardening so we always had lots of flowers.

He took part in community affairs, U.F.A., Busby Co-op, 4H Club work and was on the Vermillion Springs School Board for several years. We were both members of the Busby United Church, where I played the organ for church, weddings and funerals for about twenty-one years. I have been a member of the Busby U.C.W. and the Echo Hill Women's Institute for many years.

We have two sons, George and Donald. They took their schooling at Vermillion Springs School, Busby and Westlock. George attended Vermillion School of Agriculture two years. Both boys were active in 4H Club work, being members of the Busby Grain Club and the Echo Hill Beef Club. Both are farming in the district.

George married Ivy Oldenburg of Busby and they



Tom McMillan's home built in 1933.

have two children, Clifford and Gwen. Donald married June Sterling of Westlock and they have two children, Tom and Linda.

Thomas Sr. was deceased February 22, 1982, and is interred in the Busby Cemetery. I am residing on the home farm.

### **The McNivens (Sunnybank) by Verna (McNiven) Smathers**

In 1920 Alice McDougall married Vernon McNiven, who had come from Manitoulin Island with his Mother, three sisters and his brother Norman. Vernon homesteaded one quarter of land in what later became the Sunnybank School District. Norman homesteaded the kitty-cornered quarter of land (behind the one that Mills lived on). This I can't verify but faintly remember. He passed away in California in 1947.

Florence McNiven (Norman's twin), married Paul Ashmead after teaching school for a few years. She passed away in California in the fifties.

Lula married Walter Shantz from Wetaskiwin. She taught school in that vicinity for several years. She passed away in (about) 1967.

Alberta remained a spinster, passing away a few years ago.

Vernon and Alice had two children. Verna taught school for three years in the Westlock area, after which she moved to the Peace River area marrying Bob Smathers at Bay Tree, Alberta in 1948. Bob and Verna live now in Heffley Creek B.C. They have no children.

Alex moved to Bay Tree after his Mother died in 1949. He farmed for a few years and later worked at Patterson's Auction Mart in Dawson Creek, B.C. He passed away in December 1981 after years of poor health.

Vernon farmed with horses, dug wells for neighbors and sold cord wood to help make ends meet. He died in 1938 (I think) of pneumonia.

Alice moved to Westlock in 1944 (I think). Her home was always a welcome stopping place for people from far and wide. She loved people. Many ladies stayed with her while waiting to go to the hospital. She passed away in March of 1949.

### **Mr. and Mrs. Alex McQuarrie and Family**

The McQuarrie family moved from Ontario to Vancouver in 1886 or as soon as the railway was built across Canada. In 1898, shortly after Alex and his wife, Elizabeth, were married they moved to Armstrong, where they operated a dairy. In 1912 the dairy was sold for what, at that time, was a large sum, \$75,000.00.

They then moved to Kelowna, where they first had a machine shop and later a section of land, an orchard and vegetables.

However, times got very hard and Alex decided to go to the Peace River area. In 1918, he moved with his wife and family of six children to Stettler, and later to a homestead at Jarvie. He owned a number of horses, at least two four-horse teams and a pair of driving horses as well as much machinery.

The Jarvie move was a disaster as it took so much to feed the horses, plus quite a large herd of Holstein cattle.

In 1923 or '24, Alex had the opportunity to rent (not buy) the Clarke farm, situated near the Pembina River in the Riverdale School District, a few miles from the Hazel Bluff Church. Not long after moving here their house was struck by lightning and burned. All was lost. They built another house and lived there until 1927, when he was finally able to move to Berwyn by freight train.

During their stay in Riverdale, their two daughters, Kate and Jean, taught school at Riverdale, Sunnybank, and Pembina Heights schools. Later, Mr. and Mrs. McQuarrie retired and moved to Grimshaw where they lived for several years until he died in 1947.

Mrs. McQuarrie moved to Westlock where her daughter, Kate, and family lived. She died in 1952. Both Mr. and Mrs. McQuarrie are buried in Grimshaw.

Their family were: Jim, who died in 1952; Jack, who drowned at Yellowknife in 1941. Sandy and Jim live at Grimshaw; Jean lives in Edmonton and Kate lives at Kelowna, B.C.

### **The Alex McQuarries by Catherine McMaster**

The McQuarrie family consisted of Father, Mother,



er, James, Jean, Katherine (Kate), George, Sandy and Jack.

In 1918 Alex McQuarrie moved to Alberta from British Columbia, after living in B.C. from the 1900's. At first, he rented a farm south of Stettler, where most of the children went to school. His lease expired in 1921, so he moved to Jarvie, about eighty miles north of Edmonton. He paid someone \$50.00 to locate a homestead for him there. He had quite a lot of livestock and machinery with which to work the land that he felt he should move to somewhere where there was more land under cultivation. Consequently he rented a farm of several quarters in the Westlock area from Mr. William Clark. This was in the Riverdale district.

Jim went to work at the Olds Agricultural College. After three years there, he secured his University Entrance Certificate.

Jean had been teaching at Sunniebend School, but she decided to come to live on the farm for a while, so she took time off from her educational duties.

Kate also secured a teaching position, first at Riverdale, then later at Pembina Heights.

George was through school, so he helped out with the farming operations while Sandy and Jack continued their education at Riverdale School.

In approximately 1922, the old log house in which the family was living was struck by lightning during a thunderstorm and was completely destroyed. We were fortunate to have lost no lives in this disastrous fire, in which we lost all our possessions. We lived for a while in a house at Rossington, while a new house was being built. We moved into it in time for my wedding to David McMaster in 1926.

We made our own entertainment in those days, enjoying the many activities that were available to the young people of the district. We had a tennis court, we swam in the river in the summer time and in the winter there was skating on the river. We attended dances at Rossington and Eastburg, neither of which was very far away. Summer was baseball time and there were several active teams in the area, competing against each other. One particular activity during the winter months was holding debates on almost any subject of interest at the time, between Hazel Bluff and Riverdale. Sunday School was held at Riverdale and church was at Hazel Bluff. Despite the hard work of farming and the lack of conveniences, we had many pleasurable times during our life in that district.

By 1927 the lease on the land we had rented expired, and the family moved to a farm in the Peace River area, not far from Berwyn. That year George married Annie Robins and Jean married Wellington (Duke) Robins.

Alex died in Grimshaw and his wife returned to Westlock where she lived with me (Kate) on the farm where Dave and I lived in the Prosperous district. She later moved to Westlock, where she passed away in 1951. She was interred beside Alex in the Grimshaw cemetery.

## **John and Margaret McRae: Westlock Pioneers**

**submitted by Barbara Fricker and Norma Farnell**

Our father, John Joseph McRae, better known as Jack, arrived in the district to homestead on the property in Hazel Bluff later developed by William Lyons. His mother Flora had the neighboring land, the second homestead for our grandmother.

With roots dating back to the first settlers of Glengarry, Ontario, those Highlanders who were expelled from Scotland after the Battle of Culloden in 1745, the McRaes left Alexandria for the west in 1892. At the age of ten our father was with the family aboard one of the first trains to reach Strathcona, the present day South Side of Edmonton.

Within months after their arrival our grandfather was dead and our grandmother took out her first homestead at Rat Creek. Lacking the usual equipment, but being resourceful, she hitched her two sons, John and Angus, to the plow in order to turn the soil. Possibly the experience discouraged the boys from ever becoming bona fide homesteaders. Although in 1905 they held titles to the South East and



Wedding picture of Jack and Margaret McRae. 1913.

South West quarters of Section 4, Township 60, in Westlock, the two boys continued to live much of the time with their mother and sisters in Strathcona. At a young age Jack was hauling freight by horse to Athabaska Landing.

In 1913, he married Margaret McGregor who, with her brother Simon and sisters Isabella and Elizabeth, had accompanied their widowed mother Barbara when she left Paisley, Ontario in 1909. In order to be near her two older sons Alexander and Murdoch, who had preceded her to the west two years earlier, our pioneer grandmother operated a stopping house in Clyde before moving some years later with her son Alex to Westlock to the homestead for which she had held title since 1909. (The North East quarter of Section 1, Township 60, Range 27.)

As a bride, our mother set out with our father who was a contractor, to live in the primitive camps associated with the construction of the railway into Northern Alberta. We remember her commenting that it was one of the happiest periods of her life. After enduring two harsh winters in log dwellings with roofs of tarpaulin in Mirror Landing and Grouard, the McRaes and the railway reached Spirit River in 1915.

With the First World War raging in France, Jack McRae left Spirit River to enlist with his brother Angus in the Canadian Army, serving overseas in France until hostilities ceased in 1918.

Meanwhile, Maggie returned to her mother at Westlock for the birth of their son John in October, 1915. Later under Post Master Dezall, she was one of the original employees of the Westlock Post Office and with her sister Elizabeth (Lizzie), one of the first telephone operators in the nascent village.

Following his return from Military service, Jack owned the Westlock Pool Room where he engaged the services of A. A. Gross (Augustus ?), one of the earliest barbers in the community. Then in 1922, Mr. Gross became proprietor of the Pool Room and Barber Shop, while Jack returned to farming his soldier settlement land one mile north of Westlock. The North West quarter of Section 8, Township 60, Range 26.

An erstwhile farmer, for some years he moved the family to town during the winters taking charge of the local skating rink where he helped to organize hockey matches. The new covered arena attracted teams such as the renowned Edmonton Superiors, who being less accustomed to the smaller sheet of ice, were known to suffer defeat from the local team.

During the early 1930's, he continued to be a contractor working on the Base Line Highway near Westlock and the Mount Edith Cavell Road in Jasper.

The children, John, Barbara and Norma, were all

born in Westlock and attended school there. Prior to enlisting in the South Alberta Regiment in 1940, John raised Hereford cattle on his father's soldier grant located at Hallach where he was Secretary Treasurer of the local School Board and operated a cream route to Westlock. As a tank commander he participated in the Normandy campaign and was posthumously mentioned in dispatches for heroic action during the Battle of Falaise.

Barbara, who had been a Telephone Operator for Alberta Government Telephones in Westlock from 1938-1943, married Jack Fricker of Clyde and now resides in Edmonton. Norma went to study dress designing in Toronto, where she married Gerald Farnell and now makes her home in Montreal.

Grandma McRae had delivered sixteen children into this world and raised eleven to maturity. Among her numerous grandchildren, John was the only male McRae. When he was a casualty of the Battle of Falaise in 1944 there was no one to continue the name of one of Alberta's earliest pioneers.

## George McTavish

George McTavish came to Westlock in 1913 from North Dakota. That same year he opened a confectionary and grocery store at the baseline, as it was known then, where the Provincial Building now stands.



Mrs. George McTavish.





George McTavish at Radium Hot Springs.

He later built his new store on the corner of First and Main Street. It was a large building with an upstairs where for several years the Fair used the space to display the cooking, sewing, grains and grasses, etc. The store was stocked bountifully with dry goods and groceries; the main gathering place for homesteaders to get their supplies.

George was a jovial person and many settlers were glad of the credit he permitted them till they got "over the hump".



Lorraine McTavish with calf on the Gower farm.



Westlock's first store, run by Jesse Bell, on the site of the present hospital. Bought by George McTavish, 1916.

He was Westlock's first Mayor filled that position for over nine years, during which time he did considerable work towards the development of the town.

He married Jenny Jorgenson. They had two daughters, Loraine and Vivian, and lived in a pleasant home on Main Street. He served the district well for many years, finally selling the business to P. Holten in 1939. He retired to Nelson, B.C. where he passed away.

### **The Measures Family told by their daughter Mary Rector**

My father, John Thomas Measures was born in Parker County Texas, U.S.A. May 24, 1890 and was 15 years of age when he moved with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Henry Measures and sister Myrtle to a homestead at Independence, Alberta in 1905.

Mother, nee Elsie Waage, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Waage, was born in Sheldon, Iowa, U.S.A. August 4, 1896. From there the family moved to Hamilton, Ontario. In 1904 they came west and settled in the Sion district of Alberta.

Mother and Dad were married in Edmonton September 25, 1912 and, as his parents had gone to Texas for a visit, lived on their place until they returned in March 1913. They then moved to Dad's homestead at Arvilla — NE Quarter of Section 14, Township 58 Range 1 West of the 5M.

June 1, 1913 their son Henry was born and much to their sorrow died June 2nd. Sylvie, Harry, Roy (Chic) and I were also born on the homestead. Dad was away working and Sylvie and Harry attending the Arvilla school October 9, 1922 when Roy decided it was time to make his debut into this world. Can you imagine the state mother was in, along with an active two year old, what was she to do? She did the only thing possible — took me and went to bed.

Much to her relief I dropped off to sleep and slept soundly until after Sylvie and Harry returned from school and ran for their neighbor Mrs. Albert Meyers who came to help.

All our growing up years the folks were involved in the mail business. When I arrived one cold January night, Sylvie who was then six was convinced I had been delivered in a mail bag. At that time Mother and Dad were carrying mail from Busby to Arvilla and Fawn Lake. Dad applied for the job as carrier for Pickardville R.R. #1 and when he received the contract we moved into the hamlet of Pickardville late in 1922. Dad's route superseded the earlier one which took in Dunstable R.R. #1, Eastburg and Rossington. February 1, 1923 when Dad took over from the other carrier whose name is unknown to me, his route was a distance of 44 miles and included Eastburg, Manola, Lunnford, and Fawn Lake post offices and of course all mail boxes in between. The trip was made twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays. The contract reads, Leave Pickardville at 7.00K and return by 19.00K the same day. The mail to be conveyed in a suitable vehicle. For this route Dad received the grand sum of \$699.00 per annum.

Our first home in Pickardville was a small house between Mr. Sampson's store (It was later named The Red & White) and Mrs. Langlois house on the west. He was a carpenter and a fine French gentleman who had maple sugar and syrup sent from relatives in Quebec which he generously shared with us. I must have pigged out on it for to this day even the smell of maple sends my stomach into revolt. The house we lived in, later became the Hazelwood Municipal office. While living there, there was a bad outbreak of chicken-pox and we all went down with it except mother who was covered with chicken-pox when she was born. At that time you were quarantined until all spots had vanished and you were not allowed to leave home. Mom would give Mr. Sampson her grocery order and he would haul it over in our small wagon and leave it outside the door, never accepting pay.

Mail used to come by rail on the E.D.&B.C. railway (N.A.R.) and had to be met four times a week. October 1, 1924 Dad took over this job from Mr. Thomas Holley and it paid \$150.00 per annum. In later years there was a daily train. Back then folks thought it great to gather at the station to watch the train come in to see who got on or off and also to visit as they waited.

Dad built our own home which included the post office just west of the Community hall. May 5, 1925 mother was appointed postmistress. We hadn't lived there long when the hall burned to the ground one night. All I can remember about it is being rushed to Vurly Moreau's who had the poolroom and being

quite put out because all I had on was my nighty so had to stay put and watch from the window instead of being down where the action was. There were very few water wells in Pickardville and our house would have burned too if it hadn't been for a large drainage ditch between us and the hall which thankfully was filled with water. There were also large ditches on the east side of the railroad tracks and a slough next to the section men's house. These were great places for catching frogs and rafting and we often went home from there looking like drowned rats. Wasn't so funny when we had to haul water from there for the family wash.

I don't know how she managed with such water but mother's long lines of clothes were always sparkling white.

Over the years Agnes, Reg, Clark, Ila, Glen, Charlie and John joined our family. They were all born at home and from her bed Mom took care of her books and made reports to the head post office.

Dad had to keep a team of horses for even after he bought a car there were many times when roads were impassable for cars and it was often a struggle for the horses to cover his route.

Carriers in those days were expected to see the mail through come hell or high water. With so many of us to feed he also raised cows and pigs so had most of our own meat. Mother had a flock of chickens and grew good gardens and did lots of preserving so we always ate well. I recall once a circus came to town and had cages of animals parked behind the hall and Mom gave us a tin of brown honey we didn't like to feed them. She was none too happy with us when we pulled her carrots etc. to also feed them. Poor Mom; it's a wonder her hair didn't turn grey years before it did putting up with all us and our pranks.

Dad bought a well drilling machine from Carl Hanson and dug wells for other people which also helped out financially.

The Edmonton Journal and Bulletin were also shipped by train for a time Harry was their carrier. Even at 5 cents a copy it was sometimes quite a job to collect from customers. I have one receipt which reads, "I Harry Measures received a pig valued at three dollars and sixty five cents (\$3.65) as payment in full for the Edmonton Journal. June 26, 1931. Signed Mrs. J. Mc Mahon.

I had my turn as carrier and one customer, a business man at that, ran his bill up to \$5.00 and then gave me a cheque which bounced. He did make it good later.

After the hotel was built Harry and I had the job of pumping water out of the basement with a small hand pump. If I'm not mistaken Mr. Shaw was the proprietor and I think it was his niece Hilda who



worked there and spoke with a very English accent. How we would laugh when we asked if the basement needed pumping and she would always say, "I don't know but I'll take a luke (look) and see."

The Pickardville school was built in 1912 about 1½ miles west and 1 mile south of what was now the hamlet. I was five when I trudged off to school with the other kids. The road was often under water so Sylvie or the bigger boys used to carry me. At school I first met Mr. Le Blanc the school inspector and disliked him on sight and that feeling never changed all the years he held that job. Our teacher Mrs. Slater stood up to him when he tried to bully her pupils. It was such a relief when that school was closed and we attended classes in Pickardville United Church. Dad played a large part in having the school closed and a new one built in town. Mr. A Bourcier was our first teacher.

Back then kids had to make their own fun and the Stock Yards next to the railroad was often the scene of much activity. Farmers shipped their stock to market by rail and the animals were held in these yards until loaded on the train. The boys often tried to prove they were real cowboys riding steers, etc. while we girls cheered them on from the top of the corrals.

In winter we skated on the muskeg lake a half a mile south of town or on any pond with enough ice for that purpose. Thanks to Dad a well was dug and we were able to have a rink in town.

Dad also helped build the United Church which I have attended all these many years. Sylvie and I were members of the choirs and Glee Club. From the first time I was in a school concert, I loved being on stage and lived for the winters when the Glee Club staged three act comedies. How thrilled I was to rise from chorus girl to that of a main character.

Dad took out a homestead at Shoal Creek and Harry and Roy drove there with the horses to do some plowing, etc. While there Harry became very ill and was in terrible pain when they finally reached home after losing their way. He was hospitalized and operated on for appendicitis, but it had ruptured, and he died September 7, 1936, leaving a large gap in our family.

Dad was a great hunter, always had good hunting dogs that he trained. He was a jack-of-all-trades and was always willing to lend a hand, whether it was as a butcher, vet, carpenter, taxi, digging graves or whatever.

Mother was pretty well tied down with the post office and large family. Her hands were never idle. Besides all the needs of her family she would still find time to help out others. Some mornings she would notice a child of a hard-up family without mitts. Often, when that child returned after school

mother would be out to give him a pair of mitts that she had knitted through the day. She often called upon to help a neighbor at childbirth. I remember one family whose little one died; Mr. Verding made a tiny coffin and Mother and I covered it and lined it. Mother was a wonderful cook and as I think back, seldom did we sit down to our family meal without some extras. Back in the thirties when men rode the rails looking for work, many landed up at our door and not one was ever refused a hand out. One time two young lads had slept in the barn all night and in the morning were at the door for something to eat. They came in for breakfast. How those poor lads ate. They must have been starved.

With all her work, Mother still found time to make Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, Hallowe'en, birthdays, etc. special times for her family. I remember how proudly we carried her pretty cakes to our school parties. Girls and boys from the rural areas sometimes "bached" in the hamlet for the five school-days of the week, going home week-ends as a rule. sometimes, if any of them were sick my folks would invite them to stay with us so Mother could care for them.

Now, for the family; Sylvia and I remained in Pickardville to live; Roy and Hazel live at Grande Prairie; Reg and Mureldene are living in Swan Hills; Agnes and Noel Boisnest are at Falher; Ila and Erik Toivonen, Clark and Elsie, Charlie and Florette, Glen and Mae, John and Peggy and the families are all in the Barrhead area.

Editors note: Mary Rector passed away in August, 1983 and was buried in Pickardville cemetery.

## **Joe Mercier** **by Annette Baron**

Mr. Joseph Mercier was married to Agnes Legasse in 1907 and they lived for some time in the Legal district. They were both quite young when they were wed, Agnes having been born in October, 1892 and Joseph in September, 1888. Agnes passed away in March, 1966 and Joseph in January 1969, after retiring in Edmonton for their last years.

They had a family of thirteen children, three of whom died as infants and one who died in a horse accident. The names of the ones I knew were Noel, Blanche, Victor, Lawrence, Denise, Yvonne and Wallace. Lawrence passed away in 1968.

Wallace was born in March, 1911, and in November, 1929, he married Lida LeBeau, who was born in November, 1912. Lida was also known as Ida to many personal friends. Wallace was a Municipal Councillor for many years in Division 4 of the M.D. of Westlock. They lived, and farmed, in the Westlock area most of their lives, retiring into town later. Lida



Wallace and Leda Mercier — Wedding Day.

died in July, 1978, and Wallace in January, 1981. They had six children in their family. Their first baby, Emma, died as an infant.

Their second child, Estelle, who was born in 1932, married George Schmelzle in February, 1948, and they live on a farm in Athabasca. Their five children are already grown up and married.

In 1933, another daughter, Cecilia, was born, and in April of 1952 became the wife of Don Siegle. They have five children and live on a farm, near Clyde, which is operated as a family venture, along with a trucking business.

Their first son, Joe, came into the world in 1936. He was married to Vivian Planter in March, 1961 and they reside in Olds, Alberta, where they operate a trailer park and sales, with the help of three of their children.

Albert, the second son, was born in 1941, and in July, 1960 he married the former Denise Regimbald. They are farming on the outskirts of Westlock, along with their family of four.

I (Annette), was born in 1947, and I am the wife

of Mike Baron, whom I married in May, 1975. We have a dairy farm close to Westlock with a herd of Jersey cows. We have one child.

## Frank Merryweather

### Frank Merryweather

My father was born in Yorkshire, England, and came to Canada in 1905. In that year he married Margaret Hodgson, who had arrived in Canada on the same boat. The young couple homesteaded in the Telfordville area west of Leduc. In 1908, having proven up the homestead, they bought a quarter section in the White Mud district, south of what was then known as Strathcona. They farmed there for twenty years — their family, Roy, Mary, Joan and I were born there. Being unable to buy more land at a reasonable price they moved to Westlock in March 1928. Westlock was chosen because Mr. Jim Smith, a former homestead neighbor and friend, had moved there a few years previously and sent glowing reports of this wonderful farming district. They bought S½ 20-60-26-W4 from Mr. Red Loomis. The farm was located three miles north of town and had no buildings. The family lived in three field granaries until a permanent building could be built. Joan and I attended a one room school called "Prosperous", one mile north of the farm. The teacher was Mrs. Margaret Currey, Jim Smith's daughter, who years later was to teach each of my three children.

In 1937 I took over the John Deere dealership from George Dunlop, operating it until 1963 at which time it was sold to Miller Bros., the present owners.

My father died in 1938, leaving Roy to run the farm. In 1939, shortly after war was declared, Roy, who commanded the 19th Alberta Dragoons Militia Unit, went overseas with the South Alberta Regiment. At this time Mother moved to Westlock where she lived for a few years before moving to Edmonton to live with Mary — and spent many happy years until her death in 1958.

On Roy's return from overseas the farm was sold to Mr. Noel. Roy moved to Edmonton, where he lived until his death in 1981. Mary and Joan, both married, live a retired life, as I do, in beautiful B.C.

## The Mestons of Clyde

### Isabella Currie

John Meston was born in Aberlady, Scotland. Agnes Watt who later became his wife was born at Annan, Dumfriesshire. They were married in 1916 and immigrated to Canada in 1925 under the Soldier Settlement Board.

They arrived at Clyde June 20, 1925. They had three children and two more were born in Canada.



One now lies in Dungannon Cemetery having only lived a few months.

John Meston had worked on a farm all his life so for him the change was not so great, but Agnes faced many new experiences, one of which was baking bread. Once I remember the dough would not rise and was thrown out, only to be found rising nicely in the sun after not rising overnight in the house.

The Soldier Settlement Board placed the family on the Dungannon Cemetery place and with the coming of spring the family was found at the never ending job of picking stones. Agnes and John picked stones day after day, their eyes and throats full of dust and still there were more to pick.

In 1929 they gave up trying to make a living on this farm and moved to the Violet Hill district, where they lived until their deaths. Their son William still resides on the farm. Their son John is in Peace River, George in Red Deer and daughter Isabella in Edmonton.

It is interesting to note that the name, "John" has so far lived through four generations of Mestons: First there was the immigrant, John, then his son, John, a Veteran of World War II, followed by a grandson, John, who is a well-known Farm Credit Corporation manager at Athabasca, and finally, a great-grandson, John, in Grade VI at the Eleanor Hall School at Clyde.

## The Bill Miller Family

In 1941 Bill Miller took over the family farm from his parents Mike and Mary Miller. In the winter of 1942 Bill married Helen Frey. Bills parents stayed with us. At this time there were fifty acres of cleared



Bill and Helen Miller and daughters, Violet, Shirley, Marjorie and Diane.

cultivated land and the house was a frame building. The inside was unfinished and was heated by a wood stove and an airtight heater. There was no running water at that time. The other buildings were made of logs and some with straw roofs. The land was cleared by hand and worked with horses.

In the summer we travelled by wagon and in the winter we used sleighs, both pulled by horses. The nearest Post Office was in Nestow which was four miles away. Medical needs were in Westlock which was twenty miles away, although not many people went to the hospital because of the shortage of money.

We had four girls Violet, Shirley, Marjorie and Diane of which Violet and Shirley were born on the farm. The children went to school by bus attending schools at both Clyde and Westlock.

Threshing in the fall was done with the help of local neighbors. Our first telephone line was stretched over a barbed wire fence. Later on each recipient got telephone poles during the winter and an overhead single telephone line was erected. This line was approximately twenty miles in length and had twenty five subscribers.

Bill then became secretary of the local cemetery Board.

In the spring of 1947 neighbors got together and built a road across the Nestow Lake which made going to Nestow much quicker.

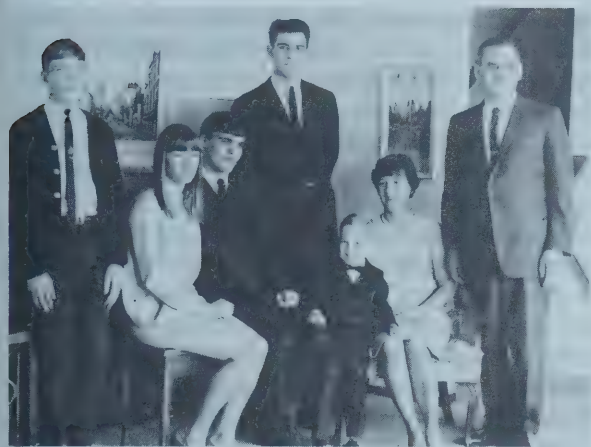
In 1963 Bill helped to build the Municipal Building in Westlock while farming at the same time. The stone work on the front of the building was cut by Bill and the stones came from the farm. In the fall of 1965 Helen started work at the Immaculata Hospital. In the spring of 1966 Bill helped to build the Bank of Montreal, also worked on the following buildings. The Alberta Pacific Grain Elevator, Alberta Wheat Pool, U.G.G. — the Drug Store owned by Bob Sutherland, Beaver Lumber, St. Mary's Separate School.

Culvert Plant and Chisholm Planer Mill, built our first house in 1966 and worked on the Immaculata Hospital, and did the farming. From 1969 — 1970 Bill built the Junior High School, the Nursing Home an extension to the High School, and the water tower in Westlock. Bill also worked on the Roland Michner School at Slave Lake. In the fall of 1970 helped to build the Westmount Theatre in Edmonton along with the new St. Albert Bakery. Since then Bill has worked on the Westlock Inn, Provincial Buildings in both Westlock and Barrhead, the Treasury Branch Pembina Lodge and the new Senior Citizens Home and Town Office, also various homes and garages around Westlock.

Then in 1979 Bill built our second home which we still live in. Helen retired from the Hospital in June of 1982.

## The Norman F. Miller Family

Norman Miller first came to Westlock in October, 1937 from Strome, Alberta to take employment in a small department store operated by his brother-in-law, Sven Albin Lindahl.



The Norman Miller Family.

Poor economic times saw Norman moving to Edmonton in the early spring of 1938, where he found employment (\$10.00 per week) and remained there until July, 1941, when he returned to Westlock, again in the employ of Lindahl and Co.

In July, 1942 he married Dorothy Fahner formerly of Chauvin and Wainwright. Five children were born of the union, four sons and one daughter.

Glen is currently senior partner of Lindahl Foods in Westlock and with his partner, Gerald Feheley, own and operate the supermarket with a current staff of approximately 35 people.



Norman Miller and sons. L to R: Douglas, Glen, Norman Jr., and Daniel, 1964.

Daniel graduated from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, in Education, majoring in art and teaches art in Edmonton and as well operates Miller Pottery from his home location.

Douglas also graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in Pharmacy and is employed in Edmonton in that capacity.



Dorothy Miller and daughter Kathie, 1964.

Kathleen is a graduate of the Cornish Institute in Seattle, majoring in Interior Design and currently operates her own firm of design there.

After graduating from St. Mary's School in Westlock, Norman Jr. enrolled with the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Business Administration and Commerce. He passed away during his second year of enrollment, October, 1982, at the age of nineteen.

Dorothy and Norman experienced good times and scant times during their forty-one years in Westlock. They were married eight years before a fridge was affordable and eleven years before a car became a reality — a far cry from today.

Norman retired from the supermarket business on January 1, 1982 and he and his wife Dorothy now reside in Edmonton.

## The Tracy S. K. Miller Family

Robert Benajor Miller, father of Tracy Miller, an adventurous man, had heard of new land in Alberta that was being surveyed and could file on for a homestead in 1905. Ben, as he was known as, was in medical practice for many years in Eureka, California, but was interested in acquiring land as he had two sons, Robert Benajor Miller Jr. and his youngest son, Tracy. There wasn't much chance of owning a farm in California, except for a high price, so he traveled by train to Edmonton, bought a team of oxen



and a wagon, and continued his journey towards Westlock with his oldest son, Ben Jr. That proved to be a long journey and scouting around, Ben Sr. finally filed for a homestead that is now owned by Louis Lange. The land description, I believe is S.W. 28-60-27-W4. They worked the first summer, and lived in a tent, by "proving" up some land as one had to have a certain number of acres cleared and "broken" in order to retain their homestead rights. Father and Son left in the fall, sold their oxen, and went back to California for the winter to work to earn more money for the next year of work on the homestead. In 1906 Grandfather brought his wife, Emma, and some of their children with them. Two of the older girls did not come until a few years later and then only for a visit. Life was very different and difficult for Grandmother, to say the least. A log cabin was built and they did more clearing of land etc. They went back to California for the winter during the first few years, but in about 1910 came to stay until 1915. Tracy was able to file for a homestead on N.E. 33-60-27-4 when he reached legal age. His brother Ben, had filed earlier on N.W. 28-60-27-4 and "proved" it. A year or two later, Tracy was able to buy S.W. 3-61-27-4 for taxes as it hadn't been improved according to the Homestead Act. After many months of getting logs ready, a house was built on Tracy's homestead in 1916. Grandfather sold his land after a few years and went back to live in Eureka. During the summer Tracy's parents came to help with the work on the homestead. Tracy and one of his sisters went to a school at what was later known as the Riverdale School. He had some schooling at Eureka.

Tracy went back to California when he was in his late teens to work as a "logger" in the red-wood forest area during the winter months to earn money for farm expenses for the next season. He made the trek for several winters. After a few years, Tracy bought his brother Ben's land as Ben wasn't interested in farming. Ben started work with the C.N.R. and was situated in Jasper. In the early 1920's Tracy was getting more land under cultivation and good yields of grain, plus farm animals to tend to so he didn't migrate South for the winter. His land was bordering on the Pembina River and a small lake and some slough land so he did some trapping and hunting of fur-bearing animals to help with the expense of farming. He was interested in wild-life, and even though he hunted and trapped, he always respected the wild animals and enjoyed the aspects of nature. He was appointed to what was known, in those early years, as a Game Guardian.

In the late 1920's he helped to establish the Rural Telephone Service for the Sunnybank District. He

was also a Trouble-Shooter for the Telephone Company. Whenever he went to Westlock or visiting he would watch for fallen trees or branches touching the wires, or crossed wires, etc. along the way. He usually had his "spiked-climbers" (for climbing telephone poles) and tools for fixing any problems that would be apparent. The telephone was important perhaps more so than today, to the people living in the district. Tracy helped to build the Sunnybank Community Hall, which was a centre of activity for dances, box-socials and many community related activities. He learned to play the "fiddle" at an early age and was always in demand for playing old-time music for dances for many miles around. In the warmer months he travelled in his 1910 Model T Ford to play for dances, but in colder weather he travelled by horse. He and two other fellows were the orchestra for dances for several years. Tracy was a founding member and a delegate for the Alberta Wheat Pool and received recognition for his many years of service. He was a Member of the Pembina Flood Control Board, which came into being due to the many disastrous floods in the area. Many times the farms along the Pembina River were flooded wreaking damage to crops, buildings and belongings.

In 1925, Tracy married Irene Beakhouse, who with her family emigrated from England to the Sunnybank area in 1919. Tracy and Irene had three daughters and five sons: Mary (Tansowny) who lives near Westlock, Ruby (McIntyre) — on an acreage near Onoway, Audrey (Nordquist) of Calgary, Archie and Fergie of Edmonton, Frank of Westlock, Ben and Charlie who live on farms in the Sunnybank area.

Tracy and Irene retired from the farm in 1974 and bought a house in Westlock. They sold their farm to Charlie. Tracy passed away in August, 1977, and Irene in May 1981.

## **The Milligan Family** submitted by Larry Milligan

Robert and Martha Milligan came to Clyde from County Antrim in Northern Ireland, in 1904, (where he had been a tailor) with most of their family.

With three of the sons, Robert Jr., Sam and Alfred (Fred), they filed on Section 20-59-25 West of the 4th. Son John didn't care to homestead, and Jim, my father, was too young, having sailed from Ireland on his 14th birthday. There were also four daughters, Agnes (Mrs. Jim Leighton), Rachel, (Mrs. Rowet), Margaret, (Mrs. Jim Taylor) and Jane, (Mrs. Jack Barker). The latter farmed near Picardville and raised a large family in that area.

Robert Sr. developed asthma and had to leave the area for a different climate. Most of the family fol-

lowed him to Vancouver Island, but Bob moved to Edmonton where he worked for the city for many years.

Fred was killed in an explosion in a munitions plant in 1918.

John was killed overseas in World War I.

Sam died in a coal mine explosion in 1930, and mother died two weeks later.

Robert Sr. died the following year.

My father, James (Jim) Alexander Milligan had two children, myself, Lawrence (Larry) and my sister Rosemary Naomi. Rosemary married John Lane, and they had five daughters, all of whom now live in Vancouver. I married and have two daughters, and I live in Tsawwassen, a suburb of Vancouver, with my wife Mae.

My father Jim returned to Clyde during the mid twenties, where he was very well known. One of his jobs during the depression was driving one of the school busses and he will be fondly remembered by many of the school children of that era. He played in the Clyde Orchestra and loved masquerades.

We moved back to the coast in 1934 where he died the following year. My mother, Rena Gosche Milligan, died during her 85th year, in 1976.

## **The Family of Oran and Ella Mills of Westlock, Alberta**

### **Sunnybank School District**

**written by Eva Forsyth (Daughter)**

Our family came to Westlock from McLennan, Alberta on March 19, 1921. We had bought the North half and South West of Section 15 Township 60 Range 27 West of the 4th Meridian.

Our Dad was a conductor on the Northern Alberta Railway, and while travelling through so often, he thought perhaps Westlock was a good location for Mother to raise the family of five, four boys and myself. I was the youngest.

We all took our schooling at Sunnybank School, and I for one have many happy memories of those years, and all our friends and teachers. We attended Hazel Bluff Church and Choir. Mother was a member of the Hazel Bluff Ladies Aid.

Dad wasn't able to be home very often so it was a great time when he did get home for a few days.

Before moving finally to Westlock, Dad was the first Station Agent in Athabasca, Alberta, and finding it too much indoors took to the trains.

Our youngest brother Don was born in the Athabasca Station. The same year the United Church in Athabasca was built, and in honor of Don, my parents presented the first Pulpit Bible to the Church with his name on the front page. After many years,

the Bible with loose pages, was given to me by the Minister. I later gave this Bible to Don.

Mother and Dad lost many of their belongings in the terrible fire in Athabasca in 1913, when most of Athabasca was burned. I was a baby when they moved away. I still have a few things saved from the fire and pictures of that time.

Dad, the Conductor, took many of the first trains into the north country.

In Athabasca Mother and Dad had a pet bear. The older boys took it into the Parades and when it got too big I think it was given to a zoo.

Joyce Wilson taught at the Elementary School for awhile and we remember the threshing crew going into the school early, before the school children would come in and be seated waiting for Joyce to come and find them there for Roll Call. My husband Bill was one of them. Joyce later married my brother Wellington. They were the last to leave the farm about 1948. Joyce passed away after a long illness in 1977.

Lawrence passed away in 1935. Many in the area will remember his accident. He was married to Lois Stanley, who later married our cousin Francis Kin-naird.

Mother had moved to Edmonton, Alberta in 1938 and passed away in 1939.

Dad passed away in 1946 after an accident on a detour road near Perryvale, Alberta.

Roy passed away in 1964, after a lengthy illness. He married Florence Chatten from Eastburg, Alberta.

Don and his wife and family live in Portland, Oregon.

I married Bill Forsyth who used to be a Grain Buyer for the Federal Grain Company at Pibroch, Alberta. He later was a grain buyer at Meanook, Alberta for Parrish and Heimbecker in 1942. We moved to Glenevis, Alberta where Bill worked on the railroad. In 1959 we moved to Mission City, B.C. and here we'll stay in beautiful British Columbia.

## **History of the Mirus Family**

Herbert Ehrenfried Ludwig Mirus was born July 21, 1905 at Eckartsberga in Thuringa, Germany.

On April, 14, 1930, the CPR Liner "Montcalm" on which he was a passenger, docked in the harbor of St. John, New Brunswick, Canada. He had turned his back on Germany, the land of his birth, as conditions in Germany were, at that time, such that it was impossible to come as a young man trained in Agriculture only, in possession of his own farm. The chance to be employed on larger estates as an administrator was getting less and less, as a vast number of army officers were looking for work, and on top of



this, the whole future of Germany at that time held little promise.

So he left his young wife, Edith Mirus, and his young son, Carl, behind and came to Canada to work out a future in this new country. Little did he think or know that in Canada, in the spring of 1930, almost similar conditions existed as in Germany. In fact, it was the beginning of the so-called "Great Depression."

He roamed all over Canada, but in August of 1932 he rented a log house on a farm which was his home for many years, on the corner of the Fifth Meridian and the Busby road. On this land he stayed, broke it, paid for it and bought another quarter east of it and lived there until October 29, 1952, when he moved to British Columbia. Also in August of 1932 his wife and his young son, Carl, came over from Germany to live with him on the farm at Busby.

In January, 1935, their second son, Horst George, was born, and in June 1937 their third son, Eric, was born. He was only four months old when his mother took sick and died from thrombosis. She was laid to rest on November 1, 1937 in the Busby cemetery.

In July, 1941, Herbert married Mary Lepp from Coaldale, Alberta. She came to live with him on the farm at Busby. They lived there till they moved to Abbotsford, B.C. in the fall of 1952 and are still living there and have done very well.

Carl, Horst and Eric went to school at Busby Park School. Carl took one year of high school in Sanguo, but Horst and Eric were able to take their Grade 9 in Busby. Horst finished his Grade 10 and went to work. Eric finished his high school of Grade 10 in Yarrow, B.C.

Carl, their oldest son, married Wanda Kirchner in November, 1948. They had a family of six children. They live west of Busby on the farm.

Joanne, who is the oldest of Carl and Wanda's family, is now married to Herbert Thompson. They have one child, Shelley. They live in St. Albert. They were married in 1966.

Wayne married Maureen McConaghy in 1972. They have a family of three: Mark, Tracy and Charlene. They live on a farm at Busby.

Marlene married Floyd Miller in 1974. They also have a family of three: Gregory, Jeffery and Liana. They live at Dunstable on the farm.

Cathleen married Klaus Worbs in 1976. They have two boys Curtis and Shaun. Cathleen remarried on July 30, 1983 to Leo Leclair. They live in Spruce Grove. Barry and Linda are still at home.

Horst, Herbert and Edith's second son, married Charlotte Huber of Busby in 1965. They have a family of two, Kurt and Marcos. They are living in Clearbrook, B. C.

Eric, the third son, married Florence Turner of Vancouver, B.C. They have a family of three. Paul is in the Canadian Army, Theresa is married and has one son and lives in Vernon, B.C. Correen is still at home.

### Louis Elmer Modin Family

Louis was born in the Viking Hospital on October 15, 1932. Louis' father Erick, was born in Sweden and came to Canada in 1905, when he was 16 years old. He proved up his homestead (N.W. 10-49-14-W4) in the East Bruce District of Alberta. Louis' mother, Lydia, was born in Edmonton in 1903. Her parents, Herman and Louise Otto came to Canada in 1897, and raised their family in the Wye District near Edmonton. Erick Modin and Lydia Otto were married in Edmonton on January 10, 1928, and raised their five boys on the homestead. Louis (the second oldest) helped his mother and father on the farm, and remained farming there, after his Dad died in 1951.

I, Audrey, am the second daughter of John and Frances Noel (whose history is also in the Prosperous District of this book). Dad was my teacher from the day I started school until we moved to Prosperous. Did we have to behave? You bet! Dad didn't want anyone saying his children got special treatment —



Fall 1977 and extremely good crop. Louis Modin and Frances Noel (grandma with shovel). 6000 to 7000 bushels of barley piled on sheets of Polythene.

but we did — stricter I figure! I learned (the hard way) that this "Dad" of ours, became a very disciplined person during school hours and expected his children to do as he did, by leaving a few things at home, and I don't mean books. He left school at school, and recesses and noon hours were filled with sports. We learned from him, to identify and become knowledgeable about the birds, flowers, trees and animals we saw or heard — so we could better appreciate the world around us. Mr. Russell Patrick was the principal of Westlock High School when I was in

grade 10. He, Dad and Esther Loree each gave me a good example to follow, as I chose to become a teacher. High School days meant rising early to do our share of farm chores, wash, eat and be on time for the bus — which we met a mile down the road. After school and the walk home, there wasn't much time before more chores, supper and homework. "Superman", "The Green Hornet", "The Lone Ranger", "The Shadow", "Fibber Magee and Molly" would see all of us around the radio as quiet as could be! I was in the eleventh grade when Mr. Waddell became principal. That year, 1946-47 began the printing of the yearbook, Panorama. Red, white and black were chosen as school colors. The school crest was a reality and the motto "Finis Coronat Opas" (the end crowns the work) became a guide. In the summer of 1947 when we heard our new principal was to be a Mr. Staples, we all hoped he would not live up to his name. Here was a dedicated teacher, principal, and friend. Someone who made learning as enjoyable as possible, while thoroughly explaining the subject matter. When you went to him for help in your studies, he always seemed to be able to open that pathway so easily, when before it was dead end. Ten out of ten always was my rating for our principal R. F. Staples. After attending the University of Alberta for 2 years, I began teaching at Gladwin in the Westlock School Division. The Department of Education approved a grant of 135 dollars if I agreed to teach for 2 years. Flatbush, Taber, Calgary and Edmonton (with Summer School sessions in between) brought me to 1958, when I joined the Westlock Elementary Staff as Audrey Modin and taught grade 2 until June 1963.

Louis and I were married in Westlock on July 5, 1958. We purchased the S.E. 32-60-26-W4 and the S.W. 33-60-26-W4 from Edward Plain (via Jennie Belle Plain) in the Spring of 1958, when Louis became a resident of Prosperous. The Mack Plain and Eric Kasbohm families were new neighbors for us, and partners in specialized equipment we could share. on April 1, 1969 Mom and Dad sold me the S.E. 19-60-26-W4.

Our two children were born in the Immaculata Hospital in Westlock. Eric Louis was born on May 1, 1964 and Della May on April 23, 1966. Eric and Della have had the same reliable, friendly bus driver (Marcel Petry) from the first day of school. Eric graduated from W.H.S. in 1982 and 1984 will be Della's graduation.

With the help of our parents, we began farming. Our first tractor was a Cockshutt S.H. 40 gas with hydraulic P.T.O., belt pulley and block heater, bought in March 1958. Louis brought 8 cows, 4 calves and 4 heifers with him from Bruce. 7 sows began our hog operation. Slowly our herd of milk cows and range



Louis Modin family (25th wedding anniversary). Eric, Audrey, Louis and Della.

cows increased. We fattened the calves which weren't kept. We began with seven sows. When we decided to sell the cattle we increased that number of sows to about thirty. The farrow to finish operation was housed in the two big barns. Taking care of that many animals meant many long hours of work each and every day. A lot of grain went through the mix mill each week to feed them, consequently lots of cleaning was needed. The feeder barn was equipped with automatic drop feeding into each of the pens. We have built a complete set of farm buildings over these 25 years, and have decreased our work load so that now we just grow grain and hay. The first varieties of barley we seeded were Gateway and Conquest, then Beyzes (2 row). Carloads of malt quality Bonanza barley have been shipped, now Klages is chosen by the maltsters. This year we have a Canadian Wheat Board contract for Harrington, a new variety. It seems a bit better than Klages. Hard Red Spring Wheat varieties we have grown are: Saunders, Park and Neepawa. Glenlea Utility Wheat was grown under a C.W.B. contract. Onward, Rodney and Pendak were oats varieties seeded. Our generation of farmers began growing rapeseed. Span and then Candle were the first varieties, now the name has been changed to canola and the new variety we grew this year is Toban.

Plain's planted many maples and caraganas as windbreaks with spruce trees around the lawn. We have added lots more spruce, pine and birch trees around the garden and yard.

We sold the house (that was on the farm in 1958) to Wallaces and it became the home for the Do-byanski family whose home had just burned. The house is on the S.W. 3-61-26 W4.

C.B. radios in our mobile vehicles and a base unit with its tower, has been a very worthwhile communi-



cations system for us, saving lots of running around and relieving the monotony of long hours in the field.

Since 1973 our continuous flow "Vertec" grain dryer has allowed us to take the crop off early in the season to get the best grade and save on field loss. The installation of natural aeration drying systems in the larger steel bins, in 1982 lets us put tough grain right into them, or lets us condition grain kept for longer than a season. Aeration has saved a lot of the extras involved in drying. The combination of drying and aeration has reduced much of the pressure of getting the crop off, so that the land can be well worked in the Fall.

I enjoy photographing the beautiful people, scenery and wildlife in this lovely community. Skiing at Tawatinaw Valley is only minutes away and the place where we have all learned to ski.

### Henry and Robert Mohrmann

John Henry Mohrmann was born in San Francisco, California, U.S.A., on December 16, 1857. He left home at the age of sixteen and went to sea as a cabin boy. In his early twenties he was encouraged to go to the Rubens Academy of Fine Arts, and then decided to combine painting with sailing the seven seas. On leave in Fray Bentos, Uruguay, he met Johanna Matilde Meyer and they were married two years later, in 1886 and sailed to Antwerp, Belgium. There they had seven children: Nita, Henry, Robert, Freda, Irene, Edward and Elsie.



Robert Mohrmann age 22, 1916.

In 1911, encouraged by friends, it was decided that Henry and Robert (Bob) would come to Canada to prepare the way for the rest of the family. In 1912 they filed on homesteads in the Mellowdale and Bloomsbury districts, ten miles northwest of Barrhead, Mellowdale being their local Post Office. The remainder of the family arrived in the spring of 1913, a little sooner than expected, due to the unsettled conditions and threat of war in Europe.

Mr. Mohrmann hoped to continue painting and find a new market for his works in the Westlock, Clyde and Barrhead areas as well as other communities. Many marine paintings are to be found in the Steen National Marine Museum in Antwerp, Belgium, as well as many museums and private collections in various other countries of Europe and the U.S.A.



Henry Mohrmann, second from right on board the "Euphrates." Age 23, 1910.

The winter of 1915-1916 was a very difficult one. Henry and Bob, who worked away from home, sent money when they were able. Mr. Mohrmann became ill with pneumonia, then suffered a relapse and passed away in February, 1916. In spite of this bitter blow, Mrs. Mohrmann and her family carried on.

In 1923 and 1924 Henry and Bob operated the Chevrolet Agency in Westlock. They also sold Dunlop tyres. Mechanics who worked for them were: John Schmidt and Jack Pickard of Pickardville. Bob and Henry built a homemade sleigh which they converted from an old car body with sleigh runners underneath it. Whenever a doctor needed to make a call in the country and the snow was deep, he asked Bob or Henry to take him in the sleigh to see his patients.

While in Belgium, Henry went to school to become a marine engineer and in 1910 or 1911 graduated

with his first class engineering papers. He then went to sea on board the "Euphrates", a cargo ship. They were shipwrecked near Greece but no lives were lost. They were taken to the home of a shipline owner in Greece where they were wine, dined and entertained until they could return home to Belgium.

Dr. Millar of Westlock learned that Henry had graduated with his engineering papers. He asked Henry whether he could design and make a better instrument for the removal of tonsils for him to use in his practice. Henry did just that, and it looked like a pair of scissors with a small cup on the tip of the lower scissor blade. It was to be fitted over the tonsil and the top blade would snip off the tonsil which would fall into the cup on the lower blade. It is not known whether Dr. Millar used this instrument or not.

While Bob worked at the garage he bought a Ruggles freighting truck; the first in Westlock, with which he hauled freight from Edmonton to Clyde and Westlock.

In 1925 they returned to their farming operations in Mellowdale.

Bob married Billie Pollock of Onoway, Alberta, who had been employed in a bank in Westlock. Bob and Billie raised three daughters; Mary, who resides in Kamloops, B.C. with her husband Mickey Zoyetz and family; Peggy and her husband Mel Novak of Iroquois Falls, Ontario and Shirley and her husband Arnold Vanderhoef and family of Vancouver, B.C.

Henry remained a bachelor and passed away at the early age of forty-four years in 1931, due to a heart attack.

Robert (Bob) passed away in 1969 in Barrhead at the age of seventy-four years. Mrs. Robert Mohrmann passed away at the age of eighty-two years in April, 1983.

In 1983, a younger brother, Edward Mohrmann still resides on his farm in the Bloomsbury district northwest of Barrhead.

A sister, Mrs. Irene Thurston, resides in Barrhead, and another sister, Mrs. Elsie McRorie, resides in Vernon, B.C.

### Albert and Emma Montpellier and Family by A. Montpellier

Emma and Albert Montpellier came to Westlock from Morinville, Alberta, some time in 1912.

Albert, (my Dad) opened his blacksmith shop, probably the first one in the town, and for many years he shod horses, repaired wagon wheels and sharpened hundreds of plow shares. Eventually, he rented his shop to Mr. Manford Reid. Thereafter, he sold and repaired farm implements and managed his farm.



Front of Float, King George V Silver Jubilee May 6, 1935. Front of float to back: Vera Crone, Ora Boyd, Billy Clark, Margarite Birks, Alfred Montpellier, Aubrey Campbell and Sydney Sands.

A quarter section of land adjoining the town, and to the north, was purchased from Mr. Lockhart, and I understand that from this name and Westgate, another pioneer family, the town of Westlock got its name.

Dad and mother sold their farm in 1944 to Dr. Whissell and moved to Vancouver, B.C. Both are now deceased.

I have one brother and a sister. We were all born in Westlock. Eugene now lives in Port Moody, B.C. and Irene lives in Tigard, Oregon, U.S.A.

During the thirties, brother Eugene, who played the saxophone, Ned Crawford (drums), Jack Gleason (banjo) and myself (piano) played for many dances in Westlock and the surrounding district. We were named "Monty's Orchestra" and we would play from 9:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. for three dollars each, plus three dollars for the car. There was a short break after the supper waltz!



Monty's Orchestra. Left to Right: Ned Crawford, Jack Gleason, Eugene and Alfred Montpellier.



Perhaps my fondest recollection of Westlock, among many I could tell, occurred on May 6, 1935. I, a French-Canadian, became King George V, on the occasion of his silver jubilee! That was some day, and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

### **The Gedeon Morasse Family as told by their daughter Lily Hale of Sardis, B.C.**

My father Gedeon Morasse was born near Three Rivers, Quebec. His family moved to Alberta and settled in the Morinville district in 1892 when Dad was 9 years old.

Mother (nee Ellen McMahon) was from Kansas U.S.A. Her family moved to the Riviere Que Barre district in 1895. Mother was then 7 years of age.

Dad was a steam engineer with class 3 papers by trade and owned his own steam engine and did threshing etc. for others. During the first years of their marriage they lived in the Morinville and Riviere Que Barre area where several children were born. Dad's two brothers Willie and Edward Morasse lived in the Vimy district where they owned land so our family moved to Vimy. I was born there in 1923 and my sister Evelyn in 1925. When I was about three Dad sold his steam engine and we moved to Highridge. My folks didn't seem to stay long in one place and we soon moved to a farm in the Fawn Lake district near Mr. and Mrs. H. Parsons who had the Fawn Lake post office in their home. My older brothers and sisters did not attend the Fawn Lake school



Gedeon Morasse.

instead went to the Racine school. My sister Ellen started school there.

In 1928 Dad's health failed due to stomach ulcers and he could no longer carry on with farm work so we moved into Pickardville. Dad bought the lot owned by Neveau's across from the Lumber Yard. There was only a small shack on the place for us to live in and believe you me it was really bulging at the seams

when Mother, Dad, Leonard, Agnes, Tony, Wilfred, Albert, Ellen, Alvey, Ellen and myself moved in. It bulged even more when Rosy came along in 1930 and Alice in 1932. What a relief it was when Dad and the boys finally had some lumber sawed at old Mr. John Smith's Mill at Fawn Lake and built a large two story house. Dad hired out doing odd jobs for other folks. Leonard who was the eldest mowed the lawns around the Catholic church and the priests house for a number of years at 50¢ a day. He later assisted in hauling the rural mail so was able to help out more at home.

In 1933 when we were being confirmed in the Catholic church I remember the Bishop being there and asking questions which we had to answer. I can't recall my question but do remember him asking Alvey to recite the 10 Commandments backwards from 10-1 which Alvey did without making a mistake. Father Marchand couldn't believe it and talked about it for years afterwards.

The Pickardville school used to take part in the Musical Festivals at Westlock and in 1937 Rosy who was in Grade 1 placed first and won a diploma. The second year she tied for first place with another little girl so the song had to be repeated and because she had pronounced the word "Beneath" as beneat had to take second place.

Dad died in 1943 and we moved to Edmonton. My brothers took our house apart and had it trucked into Edmonton by the local trucker Rudy Valee. Mother signed over the lot to him as payment for the hauling.

Our family is well scattered now. Agnes and Evelyn live in Edmonton, Wilfred and Albert at Evansburg, Ellen in Kamloops B.C., Alice in Lethbridge. Rosy in Richmond B.C., Tony and Alvey in Surrey, B.C. Leonard was also living at Surrey at the time of his death. I live at Ryder Lake but my mailing address is Sardis.

Lily Hale

### **Albert Morin Family by Lena Morin**

Albert: Born July 1906

New Market, New Hampshire, U.S.A.

Eldest son of Ludger and Eliza Morin.

Lena: Born March 13, 1918

Pickardville, Alberta, Canada

Daughter of Felix Goupie and Emeline Garon.

Albert grew up in New Market where he took his elementary schooling. The family moved to Rhode Island where he continued his high schooling. Being the oldest of a family of thirteen, he went to work at the age of eighteen in the mills as a weaver of cotton and silk. He also worked as a clerk in a grocery store and delivered orders.



Butchering a pig on the Albert Morin farm.

In July of 1932, he and a friend headed out west by car from Rhode Island and landed in Pickardville. He loved the farm and remained here. He worked on the farm, in the fall threshed for the neighbors, the Deshoux, St. Louis, Boucher, Nadeau and Glebes. In the winter he worked for his board as the farmers at that time of the depression didn't hire in the winter time. He also worked a few winters in Deshoux's lumber camp at Jarvie. We were married April 18, 1938, in the Pickardville St. Benoit church by Rev. B. Marchand. We worked out a couple of years and in the spring of 1940 we bought a farm, S.E.-20-T-58-R-W-4 for \$1600.00 which had only sixty acres broken. I can still remember the first year we farmed with only three horses, a sulky plough, an old shoe drill, harrows and an old six foot binder. Mr. Nadeau gave us a hand at ploughing which we greatly appreciated. Only thirty acres were put in crop that spring. We had the Indians brush five acres each year and

Amedee Garon did most of our breaking. It took a long time to get fifty acres done but the remainder was done by brush cutter and cat when they came into being. What a relief it was when it was all done. We also picked our share of roots, even though the family gave us a hand in doing so.

Our crops consisted of wheat, oats and barley. Some grain was sold at the town elevator while the remainder was fed to livestock. We kept hogs and cattle and they were trucked to Edmonton by our local trucker, Andre Poirier. We always milked cows, cream cheques were a must to keep the table going. The cream truck passed twice weekly to pick up our cream to be shipped to Edmonton by Albert La Bonte and Euclide Racine. We milked by hand until 1962 when we finally got milkers. That summer we milked twenty-two cows. It seemed that we spent more time at the barn than we did in the house. The coffee pot was often plugged in at the barn. We always managed to raise our own meat, chickens, eggs and vegetables for the table. Our business was all done in Pickardville as we had two stores, two hardwares, a bank, a municipal office, hotel, a station and agent, four grain elevators, a black-smith, a poolroom, restaurant, school and church as well as oil and gas agents at that time.

In March 1944 tragedy struck our home when our house burnt down and only a chair and the crib that the baby was in was saved. Luckily our other three children were not hurt. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Nadeau who took us in until we got something to live in, and to the people of the district who generously donated household contents, clothing and money. Ged Nadeau provided us with his homesteaders shack until we had our house built. Cyprien Garon built us a frame house that summer and we were able to move in by fall although none of the inside was finished. Mr. Garon worked for twenty-five cents an hour at that time as a carpenter. The house was finished as we could afford it.

Maurice, our oldest son, got rheumatic fever in 1948 and had a relapse the following year which took some years to recover. In 1949 we bought our first and only tractor with plow for a thousand dollars, later a disc, a drill and a threshing machine in 1958. We got our first vehicle, a ½ ton pick-up in 1960, which is more than triple in price to-day. Through the years coal oil lamp and lantern and gas were used. We got Calgary Power in 1953, what a change with later conveniences. We also got the phone in before the sixties. We acquired haying equipment that was needed. When Albert fell sick our son Maurice took over the farming until he left home to work out. We then sowed the farm into hay and pasture and went out of milking and into beef cattle. In 1980 we went





The Albert Morin family. Front row: Albert Morin, Peggy Kern, Annette Repetowski, Lena Morin. Back row: Leo Morin, Rita McDonald, Maurice Morin.

out of cattle altogether as it was too much for us to handle.

We celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary in April 1978. We had five children: Maurice married Mildred Onyschuk, they have two boys. Rita married Bruce McDonald, they have no family. Peggy married Gary Kern and they have two girls and twin boys. Annette married Leon Repetowski and have no family. Leo married V. Bolstad and has one daughter.

Our children took their elementary schooling in Arvilla district school and their high school in Westlock. Leo went to U. of A. and got his teaching certificate. He worked for Bernard and Hoggons engineering firm for twelve years until his passing. Rita has been working for A.G.T. for the past twenty years. Peggy worked at the bank for ten years and is now bringing up a family of four. Annette worked at White Stag for thirteen years and is still working out at different jobs. Maurice worked for Steel Brow, Camwell and farmed.

Tragedy struck the family in November 1979, and in 1980, when our two sons lost their lives in vehicle accidents. This has changed our lives in many ways.

Albert has resided in Pickardville for fifty years while I have lived here all my life and we have lived on this farm for forty-two years. During these years we have had our ups and downs but with the help of our children we have managed to fare well.

Albert has returned four times to visit his family in the Eastern states where I accompanied him twice. In these past twenty years or so, many businesses in Pickardville have closed down due to centralizing of Westlock. We now have to go to Westlock, which is twelve and a half miles, for most of the business. Due to our age, plans are to retire soon, to enjoy our later years of life. Our religious duties have always been with the Pickardville Catholic Church.

## Archie Munn Family of Clyde

### Joan Meston

Archie Munn was born in Oben, Scotland on April 3, 1883. Margaret Lavalley was born in Glenoco, Minnesota on May 10, 1889.

Archie was a carpenter by trade. The challenge of the unknown found him in 1905 in Winnipeg as a new Canadian immigrant. In 1907 he arrived in Morinville and built the Roman Catholic Church which is still standing. In 1910 he married Margaret Lavalley whose father, Narisse Lavalley, owned the Alberta Hotel and the Morinville Drug Store and ran the post office in Morinville for many years.



Mrs. Archie Munn, Mr. Archie Gorman, Mrs. Archie Gorman, Mr. Archie Munn.

Archie and Margaret moved to Edmonton, and 1912 found them in Coronation where Archie managed the lumber yard. Next, they went to Calgary to manage the box factory. The cedar dust got into his lungs, and so the family moved to Sundre. In 1925 Archie bought the Hoge's farm (Jimmy Williams farm) and also a half section of homestead land (Dzivinski farm). Years later he sold his land and took up residence in Clyde. For many years he worked for the Municipal District of Westlock as an Appraiser. He enjoyed curling and playing crib. In November 1980 Archie passed away at the age of 97.

Mrs. Margaret Munn at the age of 94 still resides



Grandpa Munn holding Dianne, aged 2 years and Grandma Munn holding Dennis, aged 4 months; taken 1949.

at home in Clyde with her daughter Maggie. She was actively involved with the Clyde C.W.L. for over 25 years.

The Munn family consisted of Margaret, Iona, Nelson, Gordon and Agnes. Maggie (Margaret) was clerk in Nelson Hardware until it closed in November 1981. Iona, a retired school teacher is married to Walter Duggan and resides in Edmonton. Nelson, a telegrapher, was married to Janet McNiven who resides in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Nelson fought overseas with the Army in World War II. He passed away in January 1982. Gordon passed away in 1927. Agnes, Mrs. Clarence Raines, was a bookkeeper in Westlock for many years until her retirement. She and her husband now reside in Summerland, B.C.

### **Stanley William Munro and Family**

Stan Munro was born at Busby on May 13, 1918. He started school at the Advance School and later attended Vermillion Springs school and the Busby High School. At the age of 13 he joined the Maple Leaf Band and spent many enjoyable years with it.

He worked in the Busby district and in 1939 married Lenore Krisher of southern Alberta.

He joined the R.C.A.F. in 1940 and toured Canada with the R.C.A.F. Band. After the war he and Lenore resided in Busby. He had a trucking business and later had a school bus. In 1950 he became the Busby Postmaster following Mr. O. W. Elliott.

They raised their children in Busby and the children got their high school education in Westlock.

Reginald S. was born in 1940. He married Jean Madsen of Edmonton and they have three children, Aurea, Charlotte and Trevor.

Reg has taught school for several years and is presently principal of the Dunstable school.

Allan W. Munro was born in 1941. He married

Eve Lennie. They have Allen Jr., Dale and Sandra. Allan was employed by Alberta Government Environment. He is now deceased.

Joanne M. Munro was born in 1942. She married Clifford Demetrick. They have two children; Thyra and Rhett. They reside in Calgary.

Robert J. Munro was born in 1946. He married Maxine Kurtz of Pickardville. They now farm in the Busby district and have two children Joan and David.

Beverly J. Munro was born in 1949 and married Philip Chatters of Jarvie. They reside in Edmonton Alberta where he is employed with an oil company. They have three sons Byron, Garrett and Curtis.

Danny Munro was born in 1960 and died in infancy.

Stan has been active in community affairs. He coached Junior boys baseball for nine years. He has been president of the Royal Canadian Legion of Busby and is also president of the Busby community cemetery.

Stan will be missed as postmaster, a position he held for thirty-two years.

He and Lenore are now retired and live in Busby.

### **The Munro Family of Busby**

In the year 1904 John A. and Agnes Munro settled two miles north and two miles east of the present site of Busby.

John farmed and did some freight hauling from Edmonton to Athabasca with a team of oxen and a team of horses.

His farm is well remembered by the boys of the district for its swimming hole. The neighbors also gathered there for many a musical evening.

John Munro passed away in 1938. He was predeceased by his wife.

His oldest son William E. married Margaret Jordan of Fawn Lake, Alberta in 1917.

In the following years William worked in the Cardiff Coal Mine and the Pickardville Coal Mine. He spent many years as foreman on the roads in the local municipality.

He homesteaded a quarter section of land where he farmed until his retirement in the early 1960's.

William helped build both churches and the Busby hall. He was very active in community affairs and also played in the Maple Leaf Band. He helped organize the Busby Co-op and was a director for many years.

William and Margaret had three sons, Stanley W., Howard J., and Maurice A. William passed away in 1966. Margaret now resides in California.

Lucy Munro married Nels Hepner. They raised a family of three boys and two girls. Lucy passed away



in 1979. She was predeceased by her son Frank and her husband.

Angie Munro married Roy Ferguson and they had two sons. She passed away in 1961 and was predeceased by her husband.

George L. Munro was married and raised two girls and one boy. George passed away in 1974.

Robert J. Murno joined the army in 1917 and lost his life overseas.

Henry J. Munro married Flora McLean. They raised four girls and two boys. Henry resides in St. Albert. Flora and daughter Elaine have passed away.

Two girls died at an early age, Grace in 1919 and Hannah Bell in 1920.

Ward Munro married Gladys Badman of Busby. They raised three boys and one girl. They reside in Edmonton.

### **Bella (Boyd) Munsterman**

Bella went to Edmonton to take a business course when she finished high school. However, she was not a city girl, and returned to Westlock to work when she finished it. For a number of years she worked at the creamery with Doris Seward and Ethel Haynes. Roman Perrin was the manager at that time.

Like so many other young people at this time, Bella married a serviceman, Ernie Munsterman, when he was home on his embarkation leave in March 1943. They only had a few days together and Ernie went overseas with the R.C.A.F. He was killed in action over Italy late that fall.



Mrs. Boyd, Corky Curlett and Bella Boyd. Taken in 1940.

Bella stayed at home with her parents. She moved up the street from the creamery to Torrie's drug store on the corner where she stayed for over thirty years. The store changed hands twice, first Bob Sutherland took over and then Norman Kitz, but Bella kept to her post. Her ready smile and friendly, helpful manner became so much a part of the Rexall drugstore.

During the 1960's she bought Maggie McRae's house on 106 Street. She lived there for many years. It was a favorite stopping place for her many nieces and nephews as well as a host of friends.

She was always a willing worker for the Royal Purple and the Ladies Auxiliary to the Legion. She was everyone's friend. I never heard anyone say they didn't like her.



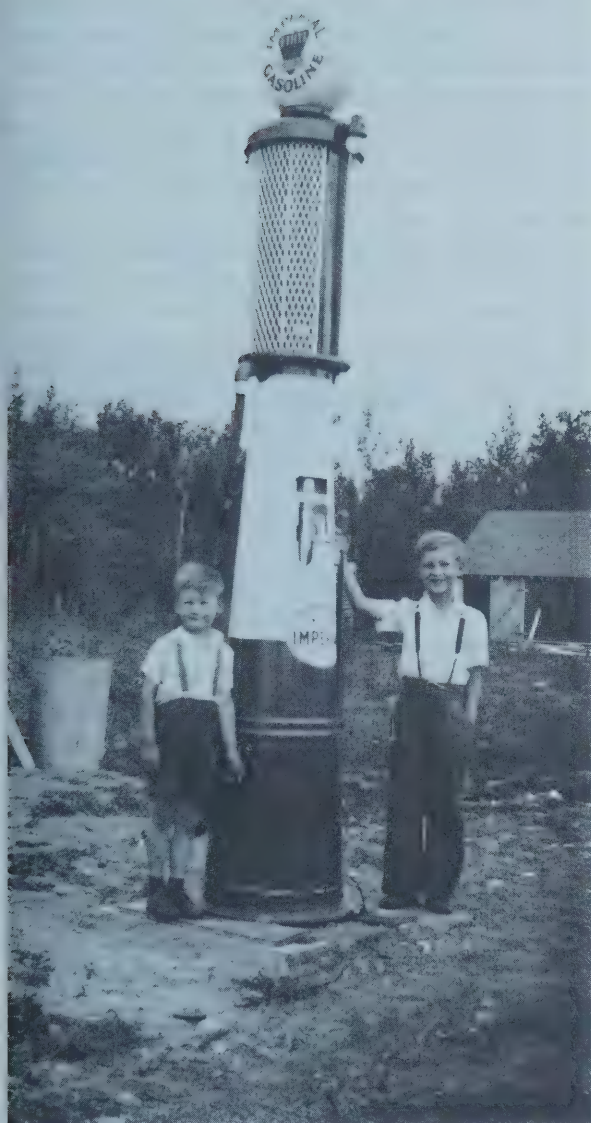
Bella Munsterman, 1970.

The whole community was stunned when she suddenly died in March of 1976. She has been greatly missed.

Bella — loved by all who knew her — a very special lady.

### **The Mutzeneek Family by Mamie Mutzeneek**

My husband, Henry, and I came to Westlock on March 6, 1944, with our two small boys, John and Glen. Henry worked as a tractor mechanic for local farmers until 1948, when he built and opened Alaska Hi-Way Service just east of town. He signed a dealer's agreement with J. P. Wodelet and Son, the local Imperial Oil Bulk Agent. There were no modern



John and Glen Mutzeneek at the hand pump, 1949.

facilities, but, since Henry had come from Latvia in 1912 with his parents and brothers, he knew how to manage. First, we had to have water, so he got Lawrence Boutin and his father to drill a well. There was a gas lantern in the service station window and a pump out front that held ten gallons of gas in the glass top. The gas had to be pumped up by hand from the underground storage tank. No one bought very much gas at a time in those days. I think five gallons was a

good sale — mostly three gallons for a dollar. A small general store was also located in the service station.

Highway 44 was built in 1949 and 1950, so we got enough people living in the area to get the Calgary Power in. We were connected to the power in 1951, for the sum of One Dollar. After a while we got the phone — a party line. Later, natural gas came in and we said goodbye to wood, coal and ashes. Some of the area was taken into the town of Westlock and was called East Glen.

In 1957, Henry built and opened the Satellite Snack Bar beside the service station, the first drive-in snack bar in town. Between the two businesses, there were lots of long hours put in. In the meantime, the two boys were going to school and growing big enough to help.

Through all of this, Henry found time to build a new house for us, which is still there. He also built several boats and took the boys on holidays, as well as taking care of the businesses.

In 1968, after twenty years in the service station, it was torn down and the snack bar was sold to Len Murtha. Things were going to be easier for us!

Henry had kept the half of the property with our house on it and decided he would build a motel — so away we go again! By 1969 the East Glen Motel was open for business. After running the motel for six years, we sold it in 1975 and finally retired. Henry was seventy years of age at that time and passed away in the summer of 1978. We travelled a lot in that short time but he still had many more places to go to.

I am still living in Westlock and have made many friends in the thirty-nine years I have been here.

The two boys have been away for a number of years. John is married with two teenage children, and at present is living in Ottawa, where he works for a computer company. Glen was married, later divorced, and now remarried. He has lived in Whitecourt for the past 19 years, where he is a plant operator for the Amoco Canada Petroleum Company Ltd. The boys still have many friends here and remember well the beginning of their lives in Westlock.

## Frederick and Diana Nadeau

**A recollection from the family memoirs as told by the youngest son**

Frederick Nadeau was born in St. Bernard, Quebec, on April 29, 1881. As a very young man, hearing the many stories that flowed east about the vast plains and waving wheat fields of western Canada, he, too, wanted to be a wheat farmer.

His decision to move to the West was prompted by a flood in July 1917, which washed away all his earthly possession, which comprised a sawmill, a



planer and a flour mill which was powered by water on the Beaugard River. This small industry being his only source of livelihood, except for a small piece of sub-marginal land, opened up his dream of moving west.

He was an arduous family man, who had married Diana Gagne on July 13, 1909. Now having four children; Gedeon, Alice, Rose and Lucien, he decided in the spring of 1918 to make that long journey to Alberta. He was influenced to some extent by information given by R.C. Missionaries, in this case, the late Father Normandeau, who was in charge of colonizing the area known as Grand Brule (the Large Burnout). There was a legend at that time telling of a huge fire that had burned through the area in the middle 1880's. It was said that out of the smoke and ashes had sprung up a small community called "Pickardville."

Frederick (known as "Pete"), Diana and the four children arrived here on May 24, 1918 after ten days and nights on the train, tired and weary. The family had to stay at a neighbor's house, because the house they had planned to move into was not yet vacated. The good neighbors who took them in were the Adelard Garon, Sr. family. Even though the agreement of sale for N $\frac{1}{2}$ -20-58-27-W4 from Mr. Rand had been completed previously, they had not yet moved out. With the family belongings arriving ten days later, it was necessary to find accommodation. Our good neighbour helped to set us up in a squared-log house which had a small addition for a kitchen. This was our home in the West!

It was now Mid-June, and we were faced with the arduous task of planting the eight acres that were open on the entire half-section! . . . a far cry from the vast wheat field we had dreamed of. However, the harvest was good. All 8 acres of it!!

By now, we had acquired a few head of livestock, and during the summer the family had gathered enough hay for winter feed by cutting with the scythe. There were many large meadows with tall red-top grass, and vetch, which made wonderful feed for the horses and cows.

The winter set in early that year, with deep snow and bitter cold, but with an ample supply of firewood close at hand, and an old-fashioned buck-saw that was kept ringing sometimes far into the night, the family was kept warm.

In the spring of 1919, on March 12th, an addition to the family occurred, with the arrival of a fifth child, Florence. She was known to the rest of the family as the "Westerner", and still is.

As the years rolled by, about 1929, the entire half section had been cleared, as the year previous, a new tractor had been purchased, to hasten the opening-up

of the land. As well, we had acquired the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -29-58-27-W4, as well as the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ -22-58-27-W4 which was purchased in 1933. By that time the family had enjoyed the luxury of two cars, a "Brisco" bought in 1922 and a Model T Ford bought in April, 1926.

Then came the "Dirty-Thirties" with the drought and dust, along with depressed prices for farm products, which made times very heart-breaking for those farmers who had settled in that area. Just at the time when they would have been able to enjoy the fruits of their labours, the bottom fell out of the economy. However, this family stuck together and "weathered out the storm" quite well.

On July 19, 1959, Frederick and Diana celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with many relatives from the east. It was a memorable event, with greetings from all levels of Government across Canada. Ten years later they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, again amidst the splendor of many relatives, friends and civic officials. Then, three weeks later, on August 11th, our Dad gave up the fight that this brave and courageous man had faced for 88 years. Nine years later our Mother followed the same fate.

We, their children, know that these brave settlers who came from the east not only endured the pains of a strange and primitive country, but of the language barrier that made it so difficult for them to communicate and get what they needed. Thanks to our great parents who taught us to speak not only their language, but took great pains and sacrifices and cost to provide us with the type of education we needed, we can stand firm and express ourselves bilingually. On behalf of this great couple, I am privileged to pass on their memoirs to be inscribed in this great book which will be published and preserved in the archives of our Country honouring all those like them.

### **Philippe and Sharon Nadeau**

In 1972, Philippe and Sharon Nadeau bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -18-60-26-W4 from George Platt.

Philippe is the son of Gedeon Nadeau, and was born in Westlock and raised on the family farm near Pickardville. He had farming in his blood, so in 1975 he purchased the NW7-60-26-W4 from Carl Wist to enlarge his farm and make it a more viable sphere of operation.

Philippe's wife, Sharon, whom he married in 1970, is the second daughter of Alfred Knudsen. She was educated in Westlock and for many years worked in the Bank of Montreal, Westlock Branch.

They have three children, Jason, Tiffany and Jonathan.

**Carl and Ruth Nagel**  
**by Ruth Nagel**

In 1974 we bought Joe McLellan's house in Southview and moved in from Jarvie. It was an ideal house for having my piano students come to, as they come in the side door and down stairs to the "piano room". It's been a pleasure getting to know so many of the youngsters in the district and helping in their musical education.

Carl has been a representative for Montreal Life Insurance company ever since coming to Westlock so has many clients and friends in the district too. We attend the Pentecostal Church and I help in the Sunday School and Women's Missionary Work.

Our two boys Ray and Darrell attended high school in Westlock. Ray is now married to Yvonne St



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Nagel.

Arnaud and has two little boys and they live in Edmonton. Darrell is a wholesale rug salesman and lives in Calgary. Our oldest daughter Erma is Mrs. Alan Baugh, a house wife and nursing administrator and has three children and lives in Vancouver. Our second daughter Linda is a missionary with World-wide Evangelization Crusade in Ivory Coast, West Africa. Our youngest daughter is Mrs. Dwight Housworth of Wembley, Alberta and has two girls.

Westlock is a wonderful town to live in. We have lovely neighbors, the merchants are all friendly, it's quiet and peaceful and an "all round good town".

**Abe and Hilda Nelson**

Abe arrived in Cabri, Saskatchewan in the fall of 1916 to work on the threshing crews. The crops were heavy that year and many hands were needed. Here he met Hilda Halvorson and decided to stay awhile.

Hilda was born in South Dakota on February 14, 1895. The family moved to Minnesota the next year. In 1910 Henry and Julia Halvorson, with their nine children immigrated to Canada, setting up a home-stead about twelve miles from Cabri, Saskatchewan — north and west of Swift Current.

Hilda was the third oldest in the family that was to grow to sixteen — eight boys and eight girls. Living on the wide open prairies made Hilda quite a runner. Her job was to herd the horses on foot! Many a time I have heard her tell about winning all the races at neighborhood picnics. She would laugh about running the first half of the race then turning backwards the last half.



Four generations of Nelsons: Danny Boyd, Daisy Boyd, Abe Nelson and Jennie Nelson.

Abe's stay in Cabri was successful. He and Hilda were married May 20, 1918. They took a belated honeymoon to Clyde that fall to meet the Nelson family.

They settled down to farming in the Abbey-Capri area for the next eight years. Two daughters were



born during this time — Daisy in 1922 and Marian in 1925.

The last few crops had been poor and times were getting rough. Abe, always more of a mechanic than a farmer at heart, decided to take a trip back to Clyde, and in the fall of 1926 he bought the Nelson's garage from his brother Louis. He took over supplying electricity for Clyde until Calgary Power came in. There was a Nelson's Garage in Clyde for over sixty years.

The 26th of March, 1927 Abe and his family arrived in Clyde. Marian was only about one and half years old but Daisy, nearly five now, soon discovered to her dismay, that running on wooden sidewalks was great fun but very hard on knees. Those boards just jumped up and tripped her and whoops — another skinned knee.

The family moved into a tiny house east of the school for awhile. About a year later Abe, himself a good carpenter, built a new garage beside the old one and bought a bigger house next door to it. Charles (Chuck) was born New Year's Eve 1929.

Before 1930 was too old, the crash hit and when the smoke cleared the new garage and house were gone. They moved back to the little house. It was crowded but dry and warm.

Abe was always an optimist and firmly believed in honesty and hard work. He acquired an old truck and took any kind of job that came along. Hard work and long hours began to pay off. Even during the worst part of the depression we were never without enough food, and there was always enough to feed any hungry stranger who happened by. In those days there were a lot of those. I'm sure Hilda must have done some fancy juggling of food at times to make it stretch far enough but she never complained and we never went hungry. She made our clothes out of hand-me-downs. Anyone who grew up during the depression will understand that. We really fared quite well.

Abe traded work for lumber and late in 1931 the front addition to the house was built and a few years later the kitchen at the back was added. This is the way the house still stands. Hilda was to live in this same house for over fifty years before moving into Parkview Place in Westlock when it opened.

Abe tore down the old garage and built a new one in the same place about 1933 or 1934 when he got the agency for Allis Chalmers farm machinery. In 1935 he brought in the only train carload of small tractors delivered to one dealer in the area. Business improved steadily and for about six years, while Lorne and Daisy were in Clyde, he ran an auto body shop in the garage. When Lorne moved back to Westlock, Abe went into the salvage business; buying salvage cars — fixing what he could for sale and selling used

parts. I'm sure almost every young lad starting out in those days got his first car, or at least parts for it, from Abe. Prices were always reasonable. Sometimes he got paid, sometimes he didn't. He was more concerned about getting someone's car running than he



Hilda and Abe Nelson on their 50th wedding anniversary — 1968.

was with money. There was always enough to get by. He really enjoyed what he was doing and was never happier than when he was tinkering around in his "junk yard".

Abe and Hilda had their 50th Anniversary in May of 1968. Abe loved to dance and never missed a dance, even at the last Clyde Oldtimers get together he attended at 81.

He was really quite fortunate; he enjoyed excellent health and was able to do what he liked most to the very last moment of his life. He was crossing the highway to help someone start a stalled car when he was hit by a car and killed instantly at 82.

He left us a legacy — not money — but a good philosophy for living; lend a helping hand when you can, be honest, work hard and always do your best; learn from yesterday but don't dwell there, and everything will turn out fine. You'll probably never be wealthy but you will find a lot of happiness and personal satisfaction along the way. That was the way he lived.

Hilda still lives at Parkview Place in Westlock where she moved after Abe's death. She is still enjoying excellent health, travels quite a bit, does her own

work and cooking and keeps in touch with family and friends at the age of 88. As she says, "39 like Jack Benny."

## Charles Nelson

Charles (Chuck) finished school and went to work with his father Abe, around the garage and at the gravel pit. He bought his own truck and hauled



Grandma Nelson with some of her grandchildren about 1935 or 36.



Grandma Nelson about 1945.

gravel on road jobs or just to private customers around the country side.

He married Florence Round in November 1956 but things didn't work out for them and about six years later they were divorced.

Chuck and Abe went into partnership forming Nelson Sand and Gravel.

He married Melba McDonald in June 1964. About two years later they moved to Westlock where they still live in Eastglen. They have three daughters. Carla is at the University of Alberta Nursing program and Myrna and Donna are at home.

Melba is the matron of the Auxiliary Hospital. She has worked there since it opened. Chuck hauls gravel when work is available and is also a very good mechanic.

His main side interest is restoring old cars. He has three of them — a 1950 Monarch, a 1948 Kaiser and a Kaiser-Fraser of about the same era.

## Charles Nelson of Clyde

by Daisy Boyd

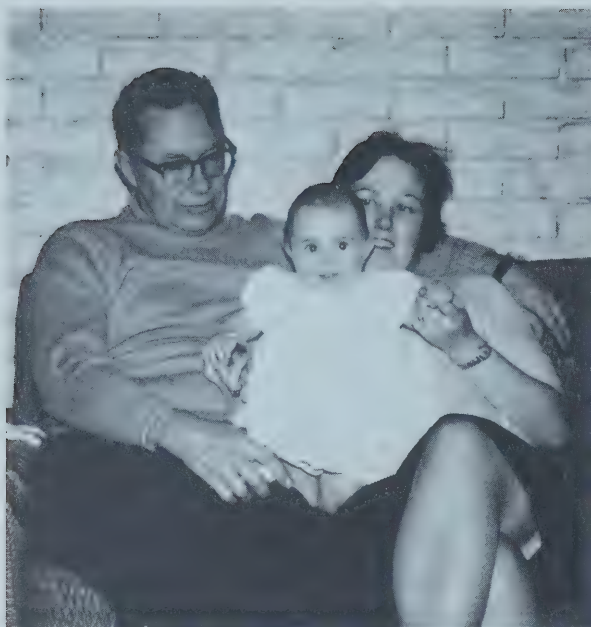
Charles Nelson and Jenny Larson were both born in Sweden, near Stockholm, in 1870 and 1869 respectively. They met there at a dance, and Charlie decided that Jenny was the girl he was going to marry. However, the path of true love wasn't any too smooth! In 1890, the adventurous Jenny set out, alone, for the new world — quite an undertaking for a young lady of those times. She found employment as a maid in a doctor's home in Ottawa, Illinois. About a year later Charlie followed her and they were married in February, 1893.

Charlie was a builder by trade and worked and moved around the Ottawa area for several years. Their first son, Abel (Abe) was born in January, 1894, followed by Albert in August, 1896, Harold in January, 1898 and Louis in November, 1900.

Early in 1901, the family answered the "Call of the North" and arrived in the village of Edmonton by train. Edmonton was growing fast and Charlie had no problem finding work in his trade. He worked as a builder and contractor and Jenny tried to control their growing, inquisitive boys. I well remember my dad (Abe) boasting that at one time he knew everyone in Edmonton.

Jenny decided she didn't want to bring up her boys in town so Charlie took up a homestead in the newly opened area of Edison, north and west of Edmonton. In the spring of 1903, Abe and a Mr. Parker walked to the homestead driving a herd of cattle belonging to the Nelsons. Abe, at this time, was a small, curly headed nine-year-old, who believed himself quite capable of doing a man's work. To prove the point, he spent the summer and fall





Chuck, Melba and Carla Nelson. Taken in 1964.

herding cattle, carrying water, helping build a log shack and — eating cookies and slices of cake supplied by the ladies of the settlement. Everyone wondered and talked about, “What kind of parents would allow a mere child to take on such a task?” They shook their heads.

Abe returned to Edmonton for the winter to attend school and to meet his fourth brother, Victor, born in September, 1903. Charlie sold his land in Edmonton — a good portion of what is now Jasper Avenue — and in the spring of 1904 moved the family to the homestead. Everyone was pleasantly surprised to meet, instead of the tyrant they expected, a quiet, soft spoken man, obviously well educated. Jenny was a smart, pretty woman who seemed quite happy with her boisterous crew of boys.

That summer, Donald MacGregor, a student minister, was concerned about so many children out of school and offered to teach them three days a week. A tent was found and papers and supplies gathered up, and school was opened — the average attendance was about a dozen.

In January of 1905, Charlie signed a contract to build the first school in the district at Edison, a 20' X 30' structure of wood, for \$625.00. He built four of the first five schools in the area.

The Nelson's two daughters, Alice in September, 1906 and Ellen in May, 1909, were born on the homestead near the newly started hamlet of Clyde, just to the east.

The railway came as far as Clyde about 1910 and the hamlet was moved to its present location. In 1912

Charlie built the hotel in Clyde and a short time later, the Bon-Ton store. Both are still in use in Clyde.

During the years of steadily arriving settlers, the Nelson's door was always open and the “Welcome mat” always out. Jenny did a lot of sewing for her neighbors as well as for her own brood. Many meals were cooked for families who lived with the Nelsons while Charlie helped them build their house.

The trials of homestead life began to tell on Jenny, never a robust woman, and her health broke down. In 1915 Charlie sold the homestead and moved to Oregon with the four youngest children. The older boys went off on their own; Abe and Harold to Saskatchewan and Albert overseas in the Army.

Times were very bad in Oregon and the family only stayed a few months before returning to Canada, coming to southern Saskatchewan for about a year. In the spring of 1917 the Nelsons returned to Clyde and bought what was then known as the Beat-on place, one mile north and just east of their first homestead. They lived there until after Charlie died in May of 1919, a victim of the great ‘flu’ epidemic.

In 1920 Louis built Nelsons’ Garage in Clyde and two years later, installed a dynamo to generate electricity. This made Clyde the first town in the area with electric light — until midnight, that is! If anyone wanted to stay up later or dance later than that, lamps had to be found and lit.

Harold died in 1933 leaving his wife, Alma, and three small children, Geneva, Ray and Ronnie.

Jenny lived on to dispense cookies to a new generation of grandchildren. They were no longer home-made ones — she had graduated to the store bought kind in round tin boxes. How well we all remember cookies and “coffa.”

The highlight of each year was her birthday, May 29th. and she expected “Everyone to be there!” We all have many fond memories of the cake, home-made ice cream and ball games at Albert’s farm. Albert bought the family farm when he came home from overseas.

At 92, “Grandma Nelson” as she was known to the whole district, developed tuberculosis and became the oldest patient they ever had at the Aberhart Memorial Hospital. She recovered very well but stayed on there until her death on June 16, 1963, shortly after her 95th. birthday.

Jenny and Charlie and Harold are all buried at Dungannon Cemetery — not too far from the old homestead.

### **Louis Gustav Nelson (L. G.)**

Louis Nelson, 4th son of Charles and Jenny Nelson, spent all of his years in the district around

Clyde. He was born in Illinois in 1900 and immigrated to Canada (Dungannon District) with his parents in 1903. Louis was known to have a keen mechanical mind at a very early age and in his teens became a machinist at the technical school in Edmonton. He worked as a machinist for the Watrous Company during the First World War.

In the early 1920's Louis went into the garage business in Clyde. This garage boasted the village's Delco Power Plant which supplied power for the street lights, a few houses and the Community Hall. It was known that after a warning blink of the lights that it was close to 1:00 A.M. and the power plant was to be shut off. So a quick pass of the hat usually bought some more time to party.

While operating this garage, he met his future bride, a little French girl from Vimy. Her name was Juliette Morin, and she was completing her high school in Clyde before going to Normal School in Camrose to become a teacher.

About the mid 1920's Louis bought the building housing the Community Hall from Saisbury and operated a machinery agency for the International

Harvester Company. Louis took up residence on the south side of the I.H.C. building and ran a small repair and machine shop out back.

In July of 1930 he married Juliette and from their residence beside the I.H.C. she taught music and helped Louis run his businesses. Juliette was also St. Patrick's organist for over 30 years.

In the middle Thirties Louis and Juliette had a small daughter, named Marie-Louise.

In the latter part of the 1930's Louis was bargaining with the Burroughs store to the south of him, to purchase their hardware stock. Louis wanted to start a well-stocked hardware in the now vacant residence beside the I.H.C. This purchase was completed in 1939 and Nelson Hardware was in business.

In the early 1940's another daughter, Shirley-Anne was born, and about this same time the effects of the Second World War were being felt. This saw Louis working long hours in the machine shop making parts for machines that were no longer available. This also saw him venture into the hog producing business, which only lasted a few years.

In about 1946 he purchased a sawmill (steamers and all) and started up a lumber planing mill on the back street in Clyde. This project saw a new Lumber Yard for Clyde as well as a Planer Mill. Also in the mid-Forties he became interested in flying, and after receiving his license proceeded to build an airport in Clyde. At one time this airport boasted three small planes and a hanger. A flying school was also held one year and a few local lads earned their "wings".

About 1956 Louis became fascinated with the workings of Television and Radios. He started a small repair shop in the rear of his hardware store. He was one of the first people north of Edmonton to repair televisions.

In 1958 Louis and Juliette purchased the Revelstoke Sawmill building and stock across the street from their hardware. Into this building they moved the stock from their other lumber yard, thus closing out the lumber business at their old location, but leaving the planer mill in operation.

Louis' eldest daughter, Marie-Louise, is married to Dr. Michael Worsley and resides in Edmonton. They have three children, Julie-Anne (Mrs. Paul Bugnet), Kenneth and Michelle.

The youngest daughter, Shirley-Anne and her husband Bruno Gartner moved to Clyde in 1968 and joined the family business. After Louis passed away in 1970 Bruno and Juliette ran the Hardware and Lumber business for about three years. In 1973 Bruno and Shirley purchased the business from her and operated it for several years. Juliette passed away in 1981.

Bruno and Shirley have two children, Sandra and Kevin.



Louis Nelson.



## **Nessler, Hart and Audrey**

**by Audrey Nessler**

Seven and one-half years ago Hart and I made our first journey to Westlock with the thought in mind of opening a part-time denture clinic. That plan became reality and an office (the first denture clinic for Westlock, April 1975) was established next to the Chatelaine Beauty Salon. After years of operating his clinic every Tuesday of every week Hart had a further dream and that was to move his family and operate his clinic on a full-time basis in Westlock. Thus, our business located in Sherwood Park, which Hart operated for seven years, was sold. In July of 1979 Hart opened his present denture clinic in the Bodnar Building. And so, in August of that same year our family moved from Sherwood Park into the Town of Westlock with the hope of becoming very much a part of the community. With the help of some special neighbors and friends that hope became possible. A short time later a part-time clinic was established in Barrhead, the first for that community also.

Shortly after our move to the Town of Westlock we had a new little member enter our family. Today we live approximately six and one-half miles southeast of Westlock on an acreage formerly owned by Ruby McCullough. And so, Hart and I, together with our three children, Jason, Jeffrey and Aleese, aged ten, seven and two and one-half respectively, enjoy the peacefulness and the beauty of the country surrounded by fine neighbors. Beautiful country living was halted in May and June of 1981 when we were invaded by tent caterpillars. Those beastly creatures ate nearly every leaf in their path and then when that was done they parked themselves on our house. The southwest side of our home was a crawling black mass of caterpillars. Needless to say, we spent very little time outside during that period.

Reflecting back a bit, Hart at the age of twelve immigrated with his parents from Germany to Canada. His family lived, worked and farmed in the area of Rolly View, Leduc and New Sarepta. The majority of his schooling was taken at New Sarepta.

In 1943 my parents moved from Holden, Alberta to a farm in the New Sarepta district. It was on this farm that I spent all of my early years up to the final year of high school.

After graduating from high school Hart and I ventured to the City of Edmonton to further our education. Years later on June 9, 1967 we were married and the above has been a brief glimpse of our many enjoyable years we have shared together.

## **The Nicholson Family**

**by Enid Nicholson Fitzsimonds**

Hal Nicholson, with his parents, brother and

sisters came from the Hamilton area of Ontario and homesteaded west of Lacombe, Alberta in the spring of 1900. Eight years later Anna Watson, with her parents, left their Toronto home, also travelling west. They passed through the area that later became Westlock, forded the Pembina River near present day Rossington, and continued on to their homestead at Mellowdale.

The Watsons proved up on their homestead and went back to Edmonton where Anna grew up and became a school teacher. As did most young teachers in the early '20's, Anna taught in isolated rural schools for several years. During this time the boy from Ontario met the girl from Ontario. Hal Nicholson and Anna Watson were married in August, 1926 and made their first home on a farm north of Bentley, Alberta.

After several years of struggling with the financial adversity of the '30's and the drought of central and southern Alberta, Hal and Anna and their family, now numbering two daughters, Enid and Dorothy, moved north and west again back to the Springwell School District east of Manola (SE 24-59-2-W5) across the Pembina valley from Anna's earlier home at Mellowdale. There a son, Gary, was born.

The scarcity of teachers in World War II made it necessary for Anna to return to service, teaching Springwell School for two years.

Hal loved his farm and his pedigreed Jersey cattle. A hail storm in 1943 made green feed plentiful and grain scarce. Clearly, diversification was necessary, and the first of a Hereford herd arrived on the Springwell hill top.

In 1945 another quarter section (NW 16-60-26-W4) three miles north of Westlock was purchased, and a temporary home was built. The family moved in and when school opened in September, the girls enrolled in high school in Westlock, and Gary went up the road to Prosperous school for Grade Seven. Meanwhile, a disastrous fire had destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom James Sr. at Eastburg. The Jameses moved into the empty buildings on Section 24, later buying that farm. (Two generations later, they're still there!)

Hal and Anna set about to make the new place the farm of their dreams. A bigger, modern home was built, and a hip-roofed barn for the Jerseys also appeared. Further feed sheds for the beef cattle were planned. However, that dream did not materialize. Hal's health began to deteriorate, and Anna was back teaching again — first at Poplar Knoll School, then Pibroch and later Westlock Elementary School. As Hal became less able to cope with the cattle, he parted with his Jerseys. Later it became obvious that he must leave farming. The farm, complete with the

beef herd, was sold to George Beach Sr. In 1962 Hal and Anna moved to Westlock to a house just over the fence from the school yard.

As Hal's illness worsened he spent much time in the newly opened Auxiliary Hospital with Anna nursing him at home between stays in the hospital. As well, Anna was teaching full time. In 1968 Hal was released from his troubles. He passed away on July 22.

Anna, alone now, continued to teach for two more years. She remarried, briefly, sold the little house, and built her 'doll's house' in Southview. Alone again, she busied herself with the activities she loved — her church, her painting, her volunteer activities and her friends. Today (1983) she still lives in that house, but is considering moving to the new lodge where snow on the driveway and weeds in the flowerbeds will not be major problems for her.

And what of the family? Enid married Jack Fitzsimonds in 1949. They live in Edmonton, but still call Westlock their 'hometown.'

Dorothy married Bob Orbeck from Lloydminster in 1956. They have lived in Edmonton, Lloydminster, back in Edmonton for many years and are presently farming near Ranfurly.

Gary attended S.A.I.T. after he finished high school, then worked as a repeater station operator at Haynes Junction, Yukon, as a dispatcher for N.T.C.L. at Bell Rock, Fort Smith, N.W.T., and at many other adventurous jobs before going to West Africa as a transatlantic radio operator for an Anglican Mission Order. After two years in the jungle, he returned to North America and worked for New York Telephones in New York City for several years. During that time he married Bonnie Jean Burns. Later, they moved to Verbank, New York where Gary is associated with I.B.M. as a research computer programmer, and Bonnie operates her own riding school.

Hal lived to know six of his eight grandchildren. Anna is a great-grandmother three times as well.

## The Nickerson Story

It is with deep regret that I must report only the ghosts of the Nickerson family walk the streets of Clyde today. So let me take you back to a time when they lived, loved and worked there. Much of this must come from tales of the "olden days" as told to her grandchildren by a fond Nana.

My father, Heman Wilbur Nickerson, the son of Ambrose Nickerson and Margaret Chisholm was born in Five Islands, Nova Scotia in 1879. His father was a merchant sea captain whose ships sailed the

seas before and during World War I. Heman was one of six children.



The Nickerson's first house. Mrs. Nickerson and guest.

In 1910 he came to the Clyde district after working in a clothing store in Edmonton. He bought a store then owned by Walter Wiedrick located on the George Clyde property on what is now Highway 18. It was moved to Clyde proper and then in 1911 he built a new store across from the hotel. The New Year's Eve dance was held in the store and January 1912 it was open for business.



The Nickerson's first car, taken at the farm. Mother with Jack, Aunt Lil, Mother's sister-in-law and children. Papa Murray, Dad, Uncle Benny and Madeline.

It was at this time Mother entered the picture. She, Frieda Minnie Murray, came to Edmonton and on February 7, 1912 was married to Dad, Dr. McQueen performing the service. They left for Clyde by stage coach. The stop at Halfway House proved to be a real shaker for a girl born in Economy, Nova Scotia and graduated from Boston Conservatory of Music. The greasy underdone pork was only a preliminary to the first sight of bedbugs. It lessened the shock of her arrival at the two-roomed shack with its stiff cretonne





Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Nickerson.

curtains, kindly made by Granny Nelson as we later knew her.

Throughout the next 42 years they worked as a team building a home, a business and a community with loving dedication, Mother seeing for both of them when Dad's eyesight failed.

The store called the "Outfitter", whose motto was "We either have it in stock, can get it, or it isn't made," carried everything from candy to caskets. Dad was general merchant, fur buyer, undertaker and banker. Much of the business was barter — furs, butter and eggs in exchange for guns, tobacco, groceries and boots.

During the very lean years much was done on credit — never to be collected. Throughout the years many people helped in the store. A few names come to mind: Charles Murray, our grandfather; W. Wiedrick, George Carew, Jesse Beaton, Henry Peterson and Rae Sterling. In the early 40's, because of failed eyesight, the business was sold. Hardware went first to W. C. Bennett and Houle, then later Mr. Robinson bought the general store. The stock was later moved across the street and eventually the old building was torn down.

Those early days in a frontier town were wild and rugged. Stories were told of the need to hide behind the coffee barrels under the counter when things got rough in the store. Mother often told of riding to Edmonton to attend the theatre on a powered handcar

with station master Joe Wilson and his wife, Ethel. They were caught in a downpour as they neared the Calder yard. Cushions were left to dry with the yard master and only the plume on the hat and Mother's pride suffered. They enjoyed the show!

Along with the store, Dad owned several parcels of land, most important the three-quarter section at the Edmonton corner. As Dad ran cattle there many many years ago, it seems only fitting that now it should be owned by Nilsson's Livestock Ltd. I remember watching, with much distaste, calves being branded in the corral behind the barn. We did not live on the farm but good friends cared for it and we shared many harvesting seasons. Dad's brother, Benny, his wife Lillian, and children Roy and Madeline lived there until they bought their own place across the road and a bit west.



Mrs. B. Nickerson.

Murray, Dad's other brother, came to Clyde in the early days but was suffering from tuberculosis and lived only a short while. Grandpa Nickerson also spent his last years in our village.

Mother and Dad played a very prominent role in the development of Clyde. Dad was the first reeve and served in many capacities for nearly 42 years. Few villages our size had cement sidewalks! The church, regardless of denomination, was an important part of their lives. Fathers Sullivan and O'Malley were regular visitors at our home for Boston baked beans and Mother's famous steamed brown bread. Mother was instrumental in bringing C.G.I.T. to Clyde and spent many summers at camp with girls from the Hazel Bluff, Westlock and Clyde districts. Her musical talent was shown at the organ and the choir in any church — whenever and wherever it was needed. The Male quartet, Fricker, Spratt, Wright, Peterson spent many hours around her piano at our home. She worked tirelessly in the Women's Auxiliary of the United Church — five times as president and over 40 years at church bazaars, teas and socials.

Dad had a great interest in sports. His race horses, Peter and Hal for one, driven by Bob McMillan ran in local races, in Edmonton and as far away as Saskatoon. Baseball was important and Dad brought big name people in for sports days. Leroy Goldsworthy and John Ducey come to mind.



B. Nickerson farm barn (Tom Williams farm — now Nillson's Auction Mart).

Though they were both busy in community affairs, they always had time for their children. The house we were born in was located down the street between Gosche's Red and White store and Sellick's general store which was next to Saisbury's (lovingly known as Jack and Mrs. Baby) Machine Shop.

Claude Ambrose was only with us for a few years. He died during a severe scarlet fever epidemic

in the early 1920's. Jack Charles Roland and I, Margaret Aramenta, were the offspring. Grandpa Murray who came west with Mother shared our homes with us until his death at age 97 in 1947. We lived through the loss, by fire, of our first home only to build at the south end of the street. The house is now owned and tenderly cared for by Walter Rowland and his wife.

Jack married Kathleen Murphy and they have three children, Michael, Judy and Jill. The Nickerson name will be carried on by four of the nine grandchildren. I married Lloyd Greer and we had two children, Robert and Beverly. Lloyd died in 1960, and I am now married to Albert Mallett. Jack and Kay live in Campbell River, British Columbia, and we make our home in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dad left us in 1954. Mother moved to Barrhead to be near Jack and family in 1957 and lived there until here death in 1969. "No one is dead as long as he is remembered."

### **The Nickersons of Clyde by Madeline LaBrie**

Benjamin R. Nickerson was born in Lower Five Islands, Colchester County, Nova Scotia. He was the son of Captain Nelson Ambrose and Margaret Chisholm Nickerson.

Bennie came from a family of sea going people, his Grandfather having gone down with his ship off the coast of Newfoundland. His father sailed until past seventy as captain aboard the old sailing ships, and docked at ports all over the world. He knew and admired Captain Walters of "Bluenose" fame. Bennie, at sixteen, joined his father to learn the sailing life. Later he purchased a three masted freighter "The Royal Page Soley" and operated it along the Bay of Fundy, the Southern Shores of Nova Scotia and North to Newfoundland.

Bennie married Lillian Mae, daughter of Lisby and Margaret Soley Mac Burnie of Five Islands, Nova Scotia. They had four children — LeRoy, Madeline and two infant daughters who lie buried in two tiny graves in the Methodist Burial Grounds in Five Islands.

Hoping to improve Lillian's Health in a drier climate, Bennie decided to move his family to Clyde where his brother H. W. had lived for many years. He came out in July and joined the haying gang on H. W. Nickerson's farm. In October of 1917, after saying Goodbye to a tearful Grandma Nickerson who could not happily accept our "Going West", we boarded the train in Truro, Nova Scotia accompanied by Mr. Charles Murray. After a comfortable and enjoyable week long trip, we arrived in Edmonton late in the evening. We left Edmonton early the next morning at 7 A.M. Mother decided that with the early departure



we would breakfast on the train. It was then that we became acquainted with the "Livestock Special" which had no diner. No food of any kind. When Auntie Freda met us at Clyde Station we were a hungry lot, and stepped off into nearly a foot of snow.

We moved immediately into the H. W. Nickerson farm with the Red Barns. Mother made up a grocery list and Dad left for Clyde to purchase among other things — a barrel of apples and a gallon each of molasses and vinegar. The apples were classified as hog feed variety and black strap molasses did not compare favorably with Nova Scotia's from the Barbados. While living here Roy and I attended Dungan-non School which was located on the Northeast corner of the farm. Our teacher was Miss Winnie Martin, who later became Captain of the world champion "Edmonton Commercial Grads".

Later our parents purchased the McKewen farm, so we had a short move to our new permanent home.

Bennie and Lil greatly enjoyed their five Grand-children. Lillian proudly became "Grandma Nick". Bennie however, associated "Grandpa" with ancient so he lovingly became "Bunnie". He never did reach the "Grandpa" age.

The Nickersons very much enjoyed their memberships in the Odd fellows Lodge with the whist drives and social activities. Lillian "went through the chairs" in the Carl Murray Rebecca Lodge and proudly wore her Post Noble Grand Badge. Lillian was ever active with the annual Dungan-non Cemetery Day where she helped with the lunch program. Her family greatly appreciate that her efforts were rewarded with the new entry gate being dedicated in her honour, the plaque bearing her name.

In July of 1952, just months before Dad's passing, Bennie and Lillian visited with Madeline's family in Kirkland, Washington. Their Grandson Wallace was at that time a sailing man and he took his Grandfather on many tours of Navy ships and he thoroughly enjoyed again visiting his much loved sea. He also was thrilled to see the speed of the super Hydro "Slo Mo" on Lake Washington.

Bennie passed away very suddenly in November, 1952. Lillian followed him on Dec. 29, 1957. Roy also is gone having died on Oct. 19, 1974. They are all buried in the Nickerson plot in Dungan-non. Madeline N. LeBrie is the only surviving member of the family and she resides at 317-9th Avenue, Kirkland, Washington 98033.

### **The John Noel Family submitted by Frances Noel**

John, our family and myself, came to the Prosperous School District #3981, 5 miles north of

Westlock, in April 1945, from the Slough Valley School District, N.W. of Tawatinaw.

John Gorman Noel, or "J.G." as some knew him, was born in Quebec on December 23 of 1903. Now remembered by many as "the one-armed teacher", he was born with a shortened left arm. His left arm was unique, as was his ability to get pupils to realize their own unique strengths and build on them, recognizing shortcomings, but learning to do the best you can with what you have, in any situation.

John was the eldest of Jerry and Mary Noel's three children. At 2 years of age, he travelled with his French Canadian parents on their journey West, by way of Oregon, to homestead near Red Cliff, Alberta. His sister June was along on the move to a farm near Bruce, where Stella became the newest family member. June passed away in her teens, Mary in 1962 and Jerry in 1973. Jerry lived at Pembina Lodge in Westlock from 1970 to 1973.



The John G. Noel family 1955. Back row, L to R: Doreen, Lyle, John, Gorman, Theo. Front row, L to R: Laura, Frances, Audrey.

John took his teacher training at Camrose Normal School in 1922-23. He participated in many team and individual sports, excelling in track and field events. In 1926 he won 6 first and 2 second place ribbons at the Edmonton Field Day.

I was born Frances Rose Kowalski, at Viking on Dec. 2, 1909. My father Joseph Kowalski was born in Poland. He met and married my mother Magdelene Butrymowicz. She was born in Wisconsin of Polish ancestry. They came West, homesteading near Viking in 1906. A cyclone shattered their barn about 1920. To this day high winds cause a miniature cyclone in my stomach, as it flips back to that day. The family gathered pieces and chunks of the barn to make a shelter for the animals, but there was no money to rebuild. A rented farm near Bruce was the

next home. Mom and Dad bought their last farm near Torlea. Josephine (Koop) and Vernie (Allen) are my older sisters. Emily (Drysdale) (Charlton), Agnes (Hill) (Adamin), Clarence, Alvin, Elsie (Jackson) and Edward are my younger brothers and sisters. Mom and Dad spent their retirement years in North Surrey B.C. where Dad passed away. Mom came to live in the Westlock Nursing Home, and passed away in 1979.

I attended Alice Hill School, then helped my parents on the farm and worked out until I was married. I met John while he was teaching some of my younger brothers and sisters at East Bruce School. We were married on August 27, 1929. There were over 30 students in grades 1 to 9 in that one room school. His salary was about \$600 then, per year. The two-room teacherage was the first home for our six children, and seemed to become smaller as we brought each one home from the Viking hospital. Laura was born on June 21, 1930; Audrey October 26, 1931; A. Doreen February 18, 1933; Theo November 8, 1934; Gorman October 25, 1935 and Lyle on May 31, 1937.

John's enthusiasm for sports let him enjoy many recesses and noon hours with his students, so they could know each other away from the books and learn to use their energy in good clean fun! Hockey rinks, Christmas concerts, Music festivals, Track meets and softball games with neighbouring schools brought out the many talents, other than scholastic, in his students. At Prosperous whenever musical accompaniment and expertise was needed, Mrs. Glen shared her love of music on any and all occasions, and gave lessons in her home. A yearly home visit was a practice John made, so parents, pupil and teacher could make the best unit possible. He lived his life so that it could be a good example for his students to follow, as he felt every "professional teacher" should, and dedicated himself to helping young people be a credit to themselves and therefore to their community.

Lyle was only one month old when we drove to our first farm, in the Tawatinaw area in July 1937. We travelled by Model "A" to our half-section. John taught at Slough Valley, 1½ miles west of our farm, so six of his pupils were well known to him.

Of course starting farming is always a very busy time, as it was in our case. A small log house eventually saw additions to it. The outside of the logs needed chinking every fall. A basic ingredient was horse manure. A wooden windmill was built, also fences, corrals and all the other buildings necessary to a very mixed farming operation. But most of all farms in those days had gates, and more gates! When we built our new hip-roofed barn, the loft was the



Swimming hole 1 mile west and ¼ mile south of Prosperous School. Boys in back, L to R: Gorman Noel, Norman Allen, Lionel Blackburn, George McMaster, Pauli Zylman, Allan O'Brien, Landert Zylman, Lyle Noel. Girls: Emillia Blackburn, Vivian O'Brien, Emillian Blackburn, Viola O'Brien and Stella Blackburn.

place to barn dance. The sparrows added a little entertainment, usually at lunch time when it was quieter, they flew around and for reasons of personal concern people observed them from anywhere that was not directly below, in the target zone. Horses pulled anything and everything that needed moving, and some learned to do things that didn't need doing. Gates that had a slide opener or granary doors with slide or swivel latches were just as easy to open, as sliding off the top rails of a rail gate. While some horses were tricky, threshing usually let the runaways do their thing. Our shakey, noisy, pole-bridge that had no sides was a real trial for skittish horses. The hay rack was unhitched and the nervous horse was either led across with, or driven across with a horse who didn't mind the bridge at all. On occasion that did not stop disaster, for the calm horse got pushed over the edge first, into the deep mud and water. On wet years the alternative was a 4 or 5 mile trip around the road, or the chance you would have to spend quite a few hours and lots of horsepower and manpower getting your animals out, only to find they were not up to the rigors of pulling a loaded wagon the next day. Our first tractor arrived and "engine" horsepower took over some of the jobs. Now horses



had horse sense! Without command, most teams would walk up to the gate or barn door, after a long day of work, stop, and wait for someone to open it. As that first tractor converted the gate into a mess of broken wire and uprights, it paid no attention to the driver frantically shouting "whoa, whoa" and pulling back on the steering wheel. It took some time to remember to forget your old instinctive actions and convert to finding the clutch and pushing it in. In today's metric conversion the tangle of broken gates goes unseen, but happens each time a farmer must use a product only marked in kilograms per hectare etc. A tractor had practical advantages over horses in some cases but what advantages has kilograms per hectare over bushels per acre? The once familiar size of a field, capacity of a granary, or quantity of an additive are all uncertain now. This means a lot of checking and rechecking and mistakes. We lived through some terrible years of ground fires and smoke! One dry Fall, much to our chagrin, neighbours began to burn their bushpiles that were in the buckskin. A wind swept that fire for miles. The lower hayland which formed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a circle around our farmstead all turned into acres of groundfires, burning the once productive buckskin, and leaving useless clay some 2 feet down. The groundfires threatened our farmstead so the M.D. recruited crews of men who shoveled out those groundfires.

In 1941 John taught at Poplar Dale, near Dapp. Laura and Audrey went with him to spend the weekdays baching in the teacherage there. On their return one very smokey Friday night, they moved ahead by following a person walking in the beam of the lights. It got better so they inched along leaning out the doors or windows. Finally they were on the straight stretch near home, but now, right on the edge of the burning area, with a straight drop, off the right side. The fire had snuck underneath the road so down the wheel went, just as they thought they had clear sailing. There was no better deal to the left, for the fire had left this packed roadway and other patches of soil isolated, to slyly catch again even though you thought you dug it out.

During World War II, threshing crews were short of manpower, so I became one of the many women who joined the threshing crew and literally "pitched in". All the chores were managed by the children.

In 1945 our oldest 3 girls were in grade 9. Since there was no rural bussing in that area at that time, and we wanted all our children to get as much education as they wanted, we began our search for good farm land near a High School. Westlock had the High School. Roy Merryweather and his widowed mother Margaret had the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 20-60-26-W4 for sale. So on Dec. 12, 1944 the purchase was made. In the

Spring, we drove our livestock across country, to their new pastures along Wiesel Creek. Some of our early neighbours were Earl Elliott, and the Currie, Charles Glen, Alex Campbell, Blackburn Wm. Platt, Woroniuk, Hal Nicholson and Urias Roberts families. "Good fences makes good neighbours," and vice versa, was as true then as it is today. We hired a truck to haul our belongings. The Oliver 70 tractor, an 8 foot Massey Harris binder, a steel wheeled 20 run drill (M.H.), a 2 bottom plow, an 8 foot disc and lever harrows were our machinery. These machines look like toys compared to the huge self-propelled equipment used to farm this land now.

Milking cows, feeding chickens, hogs and horses kept everyone busy year round — there was also the barn cleaning to be done. Making butter in the drum styled-lever action-muscle powered way, and the weekly washing with a gas motored machine, ironing with flat irons, getting the wood and coal and keeping the fires going as we fed our family of 8 was just basic living. We always had a huge garden, using the copper boiler to preserve the vegetables for winter use. Canning wild berries and our tame raspberries seemed to keep those sealers full. We candled eggs to keep them. Baking bread and pastry and butchering animals or chickens, when needed, also had to be scheduled. The Spring work and Fall harvest, besides haying in the Summer still didn't take all the time, for the farm was mostly bush. So we set to the task of clearing the land. The "cats" pushed the tall poplars, spruce and willows into piles — then the breaking plow did it's job. Many years of root picking left all the land cultivated except fencelines and the Wiesel Creek.

Our two-storey "Alladin" prefab home had been pre-wired, although there was no electricity in the area at the time it was put together. A full basement was also new for us. The metal windmill pumped water for the livestock into the big round tank. We carried water to the house. The cistern under the windmill, where the cream cans (5 and 8 gallon) and the homemade butter hung to stay cool, caused some excitement when the car keys were thought to have dropped into the water. The water and all the mud had to be baled up — still no keys — they were later found elsewhere. To climb the windmill and get a view of where the cows were or were not, was easy for some and impossible for others. Starting the tank heater in the winter was no easy job, but very necessary, so the animals could have water.

The Wabash R.E.A. was formed and brought electricity to our place, so a new well was drilled beside the house. "Walking-running" water now was gladly replaced by running water. Refrigeration, then the plumbing with the disposal field dug in, and later

propane for fuel let us feel that the good part of the city had come to us. Those 5 gallon pails of water carried to the pigs when the underground line froze up each Spring, was slippery work. The mud, on occasion would suck your rubberboot down and hold it. Then if you lost your balance it would be only too glad to welcome your bare or stockinged foot into it's cold, gooeey, barnyard-perfumed grasp. If you didn't loose your temper then, maybe you did when the cow kicked and put her foot in your pail of milk. Who will forget the moments after a cow shook her stringy, dry or wet dirty tail loose from where you had it so securely tied, and flicked it in your face?

The C.N.R. tracks are only 100 feet from the house, and we had previously lived in solitude at the end of the road, so each train that rolled by seemed like a pre-set earthquake! To get anywhere, we had to cross the tracks first. The then narrow road crossed at a very sharp angle, almost at the creek, and our approach cut back from the creek at another sharp angle. When slippery, it was as hard to get the car over the tracks as it is to hold a greased pig. Going South into Westlock, we crossed the little low bridge and manoeuvred the mud holes and corduroy spots on our weekly trip. The road followed the West side of the tracks, crossing again as the tracks take the turn into Westlock. Each Spring the creek would rise, flooding bridge, road and everything else until it was lapping at our doorstep. When the "Alaska Highway" was constructed (now #44), it eliminated both crossings by staying East of the tracks. The new bridge restricts the runoff enough so that it stays away at a much more likeable distance. At that time our driveway was moved north to its present position, where it meets the tracks and highway nearly straight on. What an improvement!

We were on one of the early "party" telephone lines in the Westlock exchange. With about 10 subscribers and a line only 4 miles long, we needed a minimum of upkeep to have good service. Our ring was 2 shorts and a long, if my memory serves me correctly. "Getting in" on some of the larger lines was a real problem. Some lines were "down" a lot, but ours had a yearly meeting to keep the books and poles up, and the brush down. On our line the emergency ring was, let's say, 2 longs and an extremely long ring. That meant sure help in time of trouble, from as many people as were at home. Of course unnecessary late night calls, exceedingly long calls, or "tying-up" the line by visiting would usually bring trouble by those same people at the next meeting, so there was a good balance. The line was "live" as soon as the receiver came off the hook so "rubbernecking" was not easily concealed. The tick-tock and "bong" of a pendulum clock sometimes

told more than just the time, when two people talking realized neither home had such a timepiece. There was no reason to wait and listen for the line to clear, because a single short ring from the person using the phone was the next thing they did after saying goodbye. It meant they were finished using it.

Margaret Currie saw the enrolment at Prosperous swell by 6 with the arrival of our children in 1945. In September, the youngest 3 studied at Prosperous, guided by Mrs. English, while the oldest 3 took their grade ten together at Westlock. The Westlock School District boundary is 2 miles north of town, so that was where Mr. Jack Roy turned the van chassis vehicle around. The thankful riders got in and out through the back doors. The plank seats along the walls were the preferred ones, but someone had to sit on the one down the middle. When Kate McMaster became ill in January of 1947, John was asked to take over at Prosperous. He remained there until 1950, when the year-end school picnic marked consolidation. The school was soon moved into Westlock. It now is used for storage by Dutka Plumbing at 9703-110 St. Westlock. The name Prosperous with it's number 3981 below are still just visible on it's now, North wall. A basketball hoop covers the (ERO) letters, but look hard and you will uncover the name and memories at the same time. The old hardwood floor, ceiling tiles and interior are as was. The North end is being fixed up by 2 young men. They have put in a partition and heat and will use it for a place to build things. Mrs. Dutka says many people have stopped and wondered if it was their school. How many schools had two entrances? Prosperous did.

John continued teaching at Poplar Knoll and Pibroch, then Westlock. He retired in 1969, and passed away in 1972.

In 1951 we purchased the S.E. 19-60-26-W4 from Dave McMaster, and in 1958 Jim Leckey sold us the N.E. 19-60-26-W4. We sold Audrey the S.E. 19, Gorman and Dorothy the N.E 19 and Lyle the home S. ½ 20. Lyle subdivided, selling the home S. ½ to his brother. The Morely Sereda family are the present owners of the acreage.

Laura married E. J. (Ted) Boon and they live in the Sunniebank District. Audrey married Louis Modin and they reside in this District. Doreen married Lindsay Humphries and teaches High School in Montreal. Their two daughters are Elizabeth and Karen. Theo and her husband F. Allen Piercy reside near Campbell River B.C. with their children Bradley and Laurene. Theo continued in her nursing career until recently. Gorman married Dorothy Mauch and they live in this district. Lyle married Anne Yadowsky and live in Edmonton with children, Roger, Richard, Kathy, Carman, Corinne and



foster son Kenny. Lyle works for Alberta Agriculture Poultry Division. We have always been happy to be a part of this neighbourly community.

### Gorman Noel Family

After graduation from Westlock High School in 1954, I stayed home and continued to help on the farm. In the fall of 1956, I purchased the quarters, SW 21-60-26-W4 and NE 29-60-26-W4, a school lease from Ian Campbell.

In March 1957, I married Dorothy Mauch from Pickardville and we settled into our home. We didn't have any conveniences that seem to be such a necessity today. Running water was getting it in two cream cans, with our collie dog pulling the sled or wagon, from the folks across the road. The furnace needed stoking up at least once during the night.



Some members of the Prosperous Calf Club. 1948. L to R: Laura, Doreen, Audrey, Theo, Gorman and Lyle Noel.

On January 24th, 1958 we were blessed with our first son, Kevin.

Our second son joined us June 1960, but was called away almost immediately.

In July 1962, we got call to come and get our chosen daughter, Donna, right in the middle of the best haying weather. Both took all their education in Westlock. Kevin is a graduate from SAIT in Engineering Science and is presently employed as a Reservoir Technologist with the National Energy Board in Calgary. Donna is working at Swan Hills.

To help supplement our income after we sold the milk cows, Dorothy went to work at the Westlock High School, as teacher-aid for 4½ years, and I fed out about 80 steers a year. Our farming operation has always been a joint effort, Dorothy helps to run one of the tractors in the spring and fall and graduated from hauling the grain to the combines "operation manager".

We take pride in our home and its surroundings. Today we grain farm 5 quarters of land in which we try to make ends meet yearly.

### The Patrick O'Brien Family

by Bill O'Brien and his family

Dad was born and raised on a farm in Osgoode, Ontario, twelve miles out of Ottawa. His folks raised farm produce and sold it to the Farmers' Market in Ottawa. When he became old enough, he and his brothers went to logging camps during the winter, in Quebec.

Dad left home in 1905 and worked on the railroad. Then, in 1907, he went to Edmonton, where he started a dray business. He hauled the first load of gravel to build the High Level Bridge.

In 1909, he made his homestead on the SE¼ 6-59-25-W4. He never talked about the hard times of homesteading. He married Jessie Workman in 1913 and a family of four was raised. William (Bill) was born in 1914, Clifford in 1916, Irene in 1919 and Leo in 1926. We saw hard times in the 1930's but we always had enough to eat.



Patrick and Jessie O'Brien.

Irene married Sam Schmode in 1937. I married Martha Lysne in 1938. Cliff married Martha Gorcak. Leo married Doreen Stewart and stayed on the old farm.

Martha and I rented land at Vimy in 1939. We filed on a homestead four miles north of Westlock and one mile west, the SW¼ 30-60-26-W4. We now have a modern farm but it was not easy; mainly

because we had no road and could not persuade council to build us one. We had seven children. Viola, who became Mrs. Don Baxandall, Allen (married Doreen Finlayson), Vivian (Mrs. Wm. Weaver), Wayne (married Theresa Fradette), Bruce (married Marilyn Romanko), Gary, and Wanda (married Armond Labonte). There are twenty grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Dad said his reason for leaving Ontario was that he wasn't going to pick rocks for the rest of his life. We visited the old farm in Ontario about four years ago and I believe you could have walked across the 80 acre field, from one stone to another. It was no longer farmed because it was not economical.

I worked as a mechanic in Westlock for seventeen years and built up my farm at the same time. We now have three foster children we look after and find it very rewarding.

Dad passed away on August 30, 1954. Mom is now in the Pembina Lodge in Westlock; she is now 87 years old.

Dad was a councillor for the M.D. of Hazelwood for about thirty years and also a member of the Elk Park School Board.

### Patrick O'Brien Family

Mr. P. O'Brien was born in Osgoode, Ontario on February 22, 1884. He was the son of William and Alice O'Brien. He had five brothers and one sister. As a young man, he left Ontario and headed west. He came to Edmonton where he ran a dray business for several years.



Mr. and Mrs. Bill O'Brien and Viola.

Pat homesteaded on the SE¼-6-59-25-W4. in 1904. While he was proving up his homestead he continued to operate the dray business. He often said he came west because he didn't want to pick rocks for the rest of his life, but he didn't mind picking roots because they only had to be picked once.

His brother Pete, then came west and home-

steaded on a quarter across the road from Pat's place, but before he could prove up on it, he had to return to Ontario because of poor health, so Pat homesteaded on it, too.

In July of 1913 Pat married Jessie Workman, and they had four children; William, Clifford, Irene and Leo. Pat was always a hard worker who loved to raise his horses, pigs and cows. For years he did a lot of grain crushing for his neighbours, as he had a stationary six-horsepower International engine.

Jessie always loved her garden and did a lot of outside work to assist with the farm work. During the depression years many a man was fed a meal or given a night's lodging. Jessie was always cooking for the men Pat would bring in for a meal when they were walking the roads looking for some kind of work.

Pat was a councillor for the Hazelwood Municipality for twenty-five years, and was Reeve for most of that time. He also was a trustee for the Elk Park School District.



Mr. and Mrs. Pat O'Brien and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Laughy.

Jessie raised chickens and turkeys and also made most of her clothes and her daughter's clothes during the hard times.

While fencing his land, Pat had the misfortune of getting his finger smashed, and he walked all the way to Morinville to the nearest doctor. He passed away in August, 1954.

Jessie now lives in Westlock, in her own home, and at the age of 87 she still takes care of her garden, with its strawberries, raspberries and fruit trees. She truly enjoys working there and keeps it really clean. She now has five generations living in her family.

### The Lawrence O'Donnell Family by Margaret O'Donnell

I was born in Winterburn, at our family home, the second eldest in a family of four. My family is de-



scended from early pioneers and adventurers. My great grandfather, Colin Fraser, a Highland Scot, came to Canada as a piper for Governor Simpson of the Hudson Bay Co. He sailed on the "Prince of Wales", landed in York Factory in August 1827, wintered over, and left July 12, 1828 to accompany Governor Simpson on his journey across the continent to Fort Vancouver. He finally settled in Alberta. My maternal grandfather, John Coleman came west with the early R.C.M.P. from North Bay, Ontario. His family was originally from England.

Lawrence was born in St. Albert, the eldest son in a family of eight. His great-grandfather came from Ireland to Eastern Canada in the late 1800's. His grandfather James was born in Byetown. (Now a part of Ottawa I believe). James and his brother travelled to Alberta and settled in the St. Albert area. Lawrence's mother's family was originally from England. Her maiden name was Gairdner, and her father was the first judge in Alberta.

Lawrence and I were married during the early years of the war. 1945 — the war was over at last. Lawrence returned to civilian life from the R.C.E.E. (Royal Canadian Electrical Engineers). He tried several jobs in Edmonton, but like so many others found it hard to settle down. He came to Westlock to visit his cousin Tom Maloney, who at that time, operated an auto body repair shop located on 6th St. where Holyk's Drug Store is now. While he had his Mechanics, Diesel and Steam papers, the auto body work fascinated him. He tried it, liked it, and joined Tom in his shop. The business was quite a challenge. There were no new cars, in fact no new anything to buy. Their first project was a burned out Cadillac that they rebuilt for Mr. Curlett, even doing the seats themselves. It was truly a wonder. Another one was a car that had been under water in a previous flood of the Pembina; the make and owner I don't remember. They also remade a Ford Coupe with side curtains for Mrs. Murfitt for her niece, Florence Rimmer.

Lawrence had rented a terrible apartment above the Red and White Store, and we moved in. We heated with coal and wood, water had to be carried in and we had no washing machine. As compensation we had the best of neighbors, Billy and Ed Garding, who was employed by Earl Kelly at the White Rose Center. The first person I met and our first caller was Father Rooney, a most remarkable man.

My first impression of Westlock was of endless wooden sidewalks in which you caught your high heels, many small stores, a lot of horses, few cars and a loss of sense of direction. The train came from the east but arrived from the west. The arrival of the train was a big event. People were so friendly. There were a lot of local returned men, most of them at loose ends

and many war brides. We soon had many friends. One of my favourite people that I remember from my first days was "Doc" a Chinese gentleman who had a restaurant near the railroad station on the east side of 100 Ave. He put on the best Sunday dinners and was so good to the children. He went back to China and never returned. Another early memory is of many fires; Ray Hides Ford Garage, Frank Merryweathers Implement Business, and Brooks Garage among them.

Tom Maloney was suffering with ulcers, so decided to go farming. He took his wife Marie and family and moved to Athabasca. Lawrence took a partner, George Kramps, also a veteran, and they took over the business. All went well. By this time we had bought a home in the "Alfalfa Patch", just outside the east village limits.

Later on Miller and Willcock came to town and took over the Red Head Garage situated where the Treasury Branch now stands. The old body shop building was sold to Renaud's and the partners moved into the back half of the Red Head building. Time passed, George married Penny McIntyre and moved to Edmonton, Miller and Willcock moved on, and Lawrence took over the whole garage. This garage was subsequently sold, and Lawrence went to work at Doherty's garage. He worked there until he died suddenly in January, 1969.

Around 1952 we purchased a larger home on 105 Street. This house, which was originally built by the Wheatley's was to be our home for many years. We had many happy times there. We paid \$2000 for the house and two lots. Lawrence was a great outdoors man, interested in hunting, fishing, trapping, golfing and curling. He encouraged many young people in this direction, and it seemed like we had teenagers under foot from the day we moved into the house. There was always room at the table for one more. His black Labrador hunting dogs were well known. With the dogs, the teenagers and our family the house was always full and life interesting.

There were many organizations and clubs to belong to, I joined the Ladies Book Club, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Canadian Legion, and the Catholic Women's League, and am still an active member of the last two. I also spent many years working with the cubs, brownies, scouts and guides.

We had four children: Joycelyn Anne, Glen Fraser, Terence Patrick and John William. Joyce became a nurse and married Albert Nadeau. They have two children, Dianna and Lawrence. They make their home in Westlock. Glen works for an Oil Drilling Company and lives in Winterburn. Terence (Terry) married Sharon Durstling. He works at Doherty's Garage as an automotive mechanic, and they make

their home in Pickardville. They have two children: Kelti and Renda, John is presently living and working in Edmonton.

The schools were good and so were the teachers. My two oldest children started school in the little one-room schools dotted around the school yard, went to the "Brick" school, and then moved on to the new schools. There were lots of sports. The children learned to swim in nearby lakes and mud holes, and to skate on the outdoor rinks. They went through Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Scouts and Cadets. The Camerons came to town and Mrs. Cameron (Beth) was active in Brownies and Guides, and in teaching swimming and ballet.

Many people have come, contributed to, and left the area. The village has become a town. There have been many changes, not all for the better, but all in all Westlock has been a good place in which to live and bring up a family.

### Willie and Wanda Oldenburg

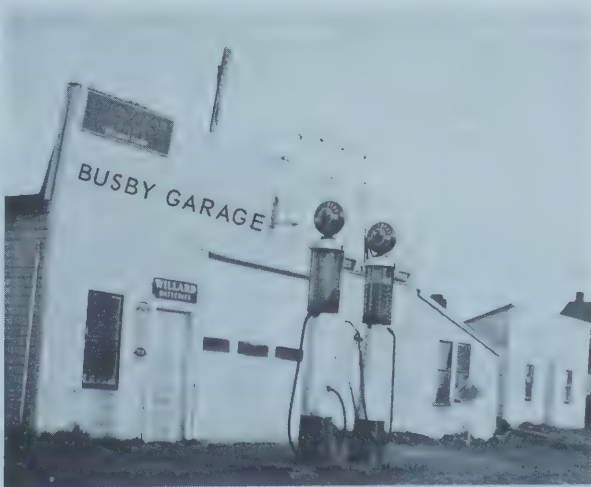
Willie Oldenburg, born August 13, 1915, in Kolberg, Germany, came to Canada at the age of nine, along with his parents, three brothers and four sisters. They arrived at the Leduc railroad station in February, 1925, where they were met by their sponsors, Micheal Glassman (his grandfather) who had come over previously and Rince Oldenburg, a friend of his grandfather, who was later to become his brother-in-law. They were taken by horse and sleigh to the Oldenburg farm where they stayed until establishing residence on a nearby farm.



The Oldenburg Family L to R: Willie, Wanda, Ivy, Shirley, Douglas.

Wanda Stein, a young farm girl, was born September 29, 1918 in Leduc and raised on a nearby farm, stole his heart and they were married October 30, 1937. They settled on a farm and remained in the Leduc-Calmar region until March of 1946, at which time they packed up all their belongings and made the big move way up north to the small settlement of Busby, Alberta. Willie's dream of owning and operating a service station and garage had at last become a reality for he and Wanda had sold their farm and purchased the home and garage of Harry Smith of Busby. Willie's strong ambition and desire to experience all possible facets of life were responsible for his becoming a school bus driver for a period of time, taking on the bulk oil agency, developing a trucking business for hauling livestock, gravel, etc. and acting as local banker for cheque cashing purposes, along with his service station duties. From a power plant in the garage they supplied the people of Busby with power until approximately 1952 when Calgary Power was brought in.

In these early days there were very few motor vehicles in the district, thus Willie also became a sub-agent for the Ford dealership. In the late 1940's the farming urge once again hit and they traded their Model A car for a quarter section of land west of Busby (SW¼ 34-57-27-W4) that had sixty acres under cultivation and became part-time farmers. They later bought another quarter across the road from it, (SE¼ 34-57-27-W4). Behind the garage in Busby, in a small barn, they raised chickens, and one cow from which they supplied some of the townspeople with milk. In the 1950's they purchased the Whitford farm, one quarter section, north of Busby (NE¼ 36-57-27-W4) for \$9,000.00, including all machinery.



Busby Garage and Service Station owned and operated by W. Oldenburg.



In the fall of 1952 misfortune struck when the uninsured Busby garage burned to the ground. The townspeople formed a Fire Brigade, thus preventing other nearby buildings from burning too. The family spirit of this small community took hold and the people of Busby formed bees to help reconstruct a new garage. Within six months a beautiful new building, constructed of cement blocks, was erected where it still stands today. In the southwest corner of the new garage Willie and Wanda opened up a hardware store, selling everything from nuts and bolts to electrical appliances. They experienced two other fires over the years — their ice-house, just north of the house and a small shack located near the bulk oil warehouse, which without the help of local residents could have proved disastrous.

Willie and Wanda were very active community people, belonging to many of the different organizations in the area. They were directly involved in establishing the Busby Curling Club and rink in 1951. (Willie used his "honeywagon" not only for emptying sewers but also to flood the curling and skating rinks.) The Busby Do-Si-Do's Square Dance Club was organized in 1953 by Willie and Wanda. It provided a lot of fun for people of all ages for quite a number of years.

In the spring of 1960, Willie and Wanda traded their house and garage in Busby for the Everett Hough farm northeast of town (SE¼ 6-57-27-W4) which consisted of two and a half quarters of land with cattle and machinery. In the fall of that year they moved off the farm and relocated in Edmonton. Here Willie worked for the UFA Co-op for a short time and then became a Real Estate Salesman until his retirement.

Willie and Wanda had three children: Ivy, born December 14, 1938 (now married to George McMillan and farming in the Busby area), Shirley, born April 13, 1940 (now married to Philip Heemeryck and living in Edmonton and Douglas, born March 9, 1946 (now married to Marion Hirabayashi from Edmonton and living in Vancouver, B.C.

## The Olsens

### Kathleen MacLachlan

Knud Olsen, born near the fjords of Bergen, Norway, had as a sailor, learned carpentry, cabinet-making, cable-splicing, and other building skills. He had gone to South Africa about 1893 when the gold of Johannesburg excited everyone's imagination. He worked as a mine carpenter for some years. He became a British subject, and a great admirer of Cecil Rhodes and of most things British. In fact he was so pro-British that he joined the 600 unfortunate

Jameson raiders, who, on December 29, 1895, crossed the border into the Transvaal to aid what they believed to be an uprising of the British "foreigners" there who had been clamoring unsuccessfully for more political equality in the Boer government. Because the "raid" had not been ordered by the British administration it was recalled January 2, 1896, and Colonel Jameson and his followers surrendered to the Boers. After trial by the British Crown, Dr. Jameson was sentenced to 15 months in prison in England, and his followers were punished by being put across the Border into Rhodesia. Knud Olsen was one of them. He found ready employment and challenge in the gold mines near Bulawayo. Later, in 1902, he had the privilege of being one of a guard of honor at Cecil Rhodes' funeral in the Matopo Hills. Alice Thompson, a Yorkshire girl who had been "on her own" since age 12, having saved some of her hard-earned wages had a desire to travel. As encouragement to young people to go abroad to the "colonies", governments and steamship companies offered passages at very nominal rates. So Alice and her friend, Maggie Prichard, elected to go to South Africa. After



Knud and Alice Olsen, 1905.

landing at Cape Town, they decided to go farther "up country", working as domestic servants enroute. Knud and Alice met and were married in 1902.

For the next three years, the Olsens experienced the privations of frontier life in a hot climate in a country alive with lizards, snakes, crocodiles and insects the most vicious of which was the malaria mosquito. At times Alice was the only white woman within miles. Although every white man and woman had their own black servants, cooking, bread-making from dry yeast cakes, sewing and other skilled tasks were performed by the woman of the house. While the natives lived in Kraals made of bent saplings interlaced with vines, leaves and coarse grass, and

cement-like floors made from a mixture of cow dung and ant daaga, the Europeans' houses were of galvanized iron construction so that they could not be eaten away by the white ants. Travel from A to B was mostly on foot, but occasionally for an emergency, a Cape cart might be employed. This set-up though primitive, was quite rewarding to the Olsens for three years until a health problem became apparent.

Malaria, the scourge of many tropical countries caught up with Knud. His 12 years' residence in the country had made him a victim of recurring bouts of malaria to the extent that his doctor told him that if he did not leave the country, he would certainly succumb to the fever. So the Olsen family decided on a temperate zone country, and Canada was the choice.

After a month in England where they were exposed to glowing propaganda about the glorious future one could experience in any of the British Colonies, they decided Canada had them all beat with the promise of 160 acres of land for \$10.00! So in January of 1906 they embarked on a ship of the Cunard line, landing at Halifax, thence travelling westward by train to Winnipeg, with shining expectations of the bounteous land ahead. After a few days' reconnoitering at 60 below zero, and discovering that homesteads were not too readily available near Winnipeg, they moved on to Edmonton.

An embarrassing incident occurred just after Alice had boarded the westbound C.N.R. at Winnipeg. It seems that she had washed the clothing they had worn on the lengthy trip from England, and had hung the garments out to dry in Winnipeg's wintry air. Upon receiving hasty boarding orders from Knud, she had bundled the frozen wash together hoping to get it thawed out enroute. Just before the train was to pull out, passengers gazing out of the windows were amused and mystified to see a man walking up and down the platform, holding aloft a stifly frozen union suit arms and legs spread-eagled. Alice gasped, "That's my husband's underwear that I must have left on the line!" She dashed to the train door and retrieved it from their honest landlord as the train was slowly moving on. By degrees she thawed the "monster" to packable size.

As January did not seem the best time to look for homestead corner stakes, Knud bought a lot on Kenistino Avenue (now 96 Street) and Picard Street (now 108 Avenue) and built a house there for a residence until more seasonable weather came. In the meantime there was much planning and purchasing of equipment for the grand homestead experience.

On August 20, 1906, Knud filed on the S.E.¼ 18-60-25-W4. At the Edmonton Immigration Hall, he met Charles Nelson and Fred Meyer who were



Olsen's Lumber Yard at Clyde, 1912. Charles Jesselin and Knud Olsen sitting on roof.



already established in the Edison District. He purchased lumber from Meyer Brothers to build a frame house, and learned from Nelson that the climate was so congenial that one could "make Hay" until Christmas! With this assurance Olsen purchased 20 head of cattle, a team of general purpose horses, one with colt at foot. The cattle were herded by Messrs. Legasse and Leguerie prior to Knud's building suitable barn and corral at the homestead. The horses supplied power for the lumber wagon to transport the family and their worldly possessions to their dream home. Their supplies consisted of 200 pounds of flour, Royal yeast cakes, 100 pounds sugar, 5 gallons kerosene, 20 pounds salt, a side of bacon, some dried apple rings, a case of prunes, 20 pounds rice, a can of Rogers' golden syrup, a 5-pound pail of lard, a gallon crock of vinegar, some baking powder, soda, and a few herbs to flavor soups and stews. For first aid they had vaseline, a bottle of carbolic acid, sulphur, camphor, and Eucalyptus oil for sore throats; Epsom salts and castor oil for alimentary disorders, and a package of alum for assorted skin abrasions. In addition to the above, the Olsens carried enough shingles to cover the frame roof, and a quantity of bricks for the chimney, as well as an "air tight" heater, small cook stove, and a few yards of mosquito netting.

Laden with these supplies, a broad axe, shovel, hay fork and crosscut saw, shot gun, and other rudimentary tools, Knud and Alice with their four-month-old daughter, Kathleen, and a black retriever, headed their willing but over-loaded team northwards. The going was rough. The trail was interspersed with deep mud holes to be skirted or built up with saplings to form a solid base. Huge fallen trees had to be moved to make way for the scant passage. At the end of a long laborious day, the weary travellers had advanced about 8 miles to the bottom of the St. Albert Hill. To go farther was beyond the poor horses who now suffered sore shoulders from their hard pulling. The bricks were unloaded at the bottom of the hill. With only a half load, the wagon reached the top of the hill, and the assistance of kind friends, the Remeaus, who extended their hospitality to the travellers to stay overnight. In the morning Millie Remeau (later Mrs. Vaudheim), a charming young woman, volunteered her help and that of one of her horses to retrieve the bricks. The excellent horsewoman that she was manouvered the uphill pull skilfully, the reloading was accomplished, and grateful goodbyes said.

Perched on the high springy wagon seat, Alice, with babe in arms, and Knud at the lines, an early start got under way. The hot August day passed similarly to the previous one with the resultant bumps and near catastrophes.

Nightfall found them another 20 miles down the road at the "halfway house". They anticipated a restful night, and gladly "turned in". The place was clean and inviting. They "blew out" the kerosene lamp and relaxed. But only for a few minutes. The silence became broken by numerous little thuds on the floor and bedside table. Alarmed, they lit the lamp. To their amazement scores of small bugs were crawling in the bed and even venturing a nibble on exposed flesh. While the Olsens were quite accustomed to venomous mamba snakes in their sugar sacks and malaria mosquitoes injecting their fever potions, they had never encountered anything quite like the little red tenacious insects which now attacked them. They later learned these were bedbugs. When the lamp was relit, the bugs went into hiding. For the remainder of the night, Alice sat bolt upright cradling her infant in her arms, fearing another attack might lodge a bug down the baby's throat. Needless to say, the sojourners were up and away early the next morning.

Nightfall of the third day found the trekkers at the homestead of Charles Nelson and real pioneer hospitality. The Nelson family consisted of 5 boys ranging in age from 3 to 12 years. Mrs. Nelson, daily expecting her sixth child, prevailed upon Alice Olsen to stay and "rough it" with the boys until after her delivery. Mrs. Beaton, the local midwife, was to be in charge of the obstetrics. So while the anxiety regarding the imminent birth seemed to be taken care of, the new appointment as housekeeper for a group of 9 gave Alice some concern. She had never been in charge of 5 healthy boys, and Canadian boys at that! However, she baked the bread and carried out the household duties to the best of her ability with the help of some of the children who were responsible for bringing in the kindling, wood, and water. The eldest son, Abe, proved to be a helpful nursemaid for 4-month-old Kathleen.

On the day the baby was being born, Abe was left fairly well alone to supply his own baby-sitting resources. When there was a lull in the household activities, Alice glanced out of the door, and to her horror saw Abe, playing his harmonica, baby cradled in his arms reclining against a cud-chewing recumbent cow. Uttering a scream the mother said, "Oh my God! If that cow stands up, the child will be killed." Abe assured her that the danger was very remote as Bossie was a gentle one. Other than having a dirty dress, the infant suffered no damage. Alice Olsen was soon to become more familiar with bovine habits. The Nelson baby was named Alice in honor of the sometime house keeper.

The Olsens pushed on to their homestead where Knud had built a frame house with bay windows

facing south, a barn for the cattle delivered on the hoof. He had made a "dugout" to store water over winter for the stock. He had also "put up" hay — a lot by scythe and hand fork. A pig pen and "chicken run" completed the farm accommodations. Some neighbors predicted that the cold winter would decimate Olsen's livestock. Not one died, chiefly because of the dedication and hours of labor given to their care. While Alice never did milk cows, she overcame her fear of them, especially as they followed her around the yard begging for salt.

The homestead was located adjacent to a slough-lake from which the livestock drank in the summer-time. Many a venturesome animal strayed too far into the water and sank down in the quagmire too deeply to extricate herself. In these cases, Knud, often tied one end of a rope around the sinking animal and the other end around a stout tree while he acted as a human winch. Thus he pulled many floundering cattle from certain destruction. (It may be mentioned that a very traversable bridge now spans this slough. Donald Moffat now owns the Olsen homestead.)

Knud "proved up" on the homestead, breaking 10 acres a year with a walking plow, cutting down with a broad axe and crosscut saw tamarack poles, some of which were peeled by hand and "snaked out" to the base line where they were bought at \$1.00 a piece to be used for the first telephone line in the country.

Taxes were paid to the Edison School District some four muddy miles away. In some places, pot holes were so deep it seemed as if the wagon box would float off the wheels. The Olsens took a dim view of this route for a six-year-old's walk to school. So they decided to move to an area more accessible to a seat of learning. This was the hamlet of Clyde, being settled at that time. Knud traded his patented homestead to Billy MacDonald for a lumber yard in Clyde. This deal appealed to Olsen because it gave him a source of lumber to construct some of the buildings he envisioned for the new hamlet. He sold most of the livestock to neighbors, retaining some which would supply table needs — cows for milk, chickens for eggs, a couple of pigs for future bacon, and of course, the team of horses for transportation.

Thus equipped, one cold winter night in 1911, the cavalcade headed toward their new home. The ride in the back of the bobsleigh temporarily covered with canvas was warmed by the dying embers of a green log in the small heater. Alice and Kathleen, wrapped in blankets, shared this bit of comfort while Knud gave free rein to the horses who seemed to know that shelter lay ahead and made the seven miles to town in record time. The family dog, Jack, jogged alongside.

The house and barn had already been built, and a

large frame granary from the farm had been skidded in to house workers and supplies during construction periods. The barn of logs which were not too hard to obtain in those times, warm and commodious was built on the back of the town lot. With no dairies within 50 miles, most people kept their cow and other domestic animals on their premises without the restriction of any sanitation by-laws!

With the pushing of the C.N.R. towards Athabasca in 1911-12 small settlements like Clyde boomed. Charlie Nelson had built the Clyde Hotel; Nickerson's General Store had been built; Fortier's C.N.R. restaurant was in operation; the Pool Hall owned by Sid Smith, a barber, was a popular recreation centre. The Bon Ton store had been moved from the base line to the village and thus the livery stable operated by Beaton Brothers did a flourishing business. The first blacksmith shop, operated by Sam Wortman, rang with the pounding out of horseshoes, and, to the uninitiated, it was a marvel to see the "smithy" hammering out the red-hot horseshoes, cooling them, fitting and attaching them to the patient horses. Nelson Hubert had opened his bakery, and the smell of newly-made bread and donuts tantalized the nostrils of passing children.

Knud Olsen acquired six lots. On a corner he built a three story structure, the ground floor of which was to house a furniture business, the second floor was a dance hall, and the upper one had several rooms which might be used as living quarters or storage rooms. On the opposite corner lot he built a frame house which was later used as the first R.N.W.M.P. quarters. On the next lot was a frame house in which the family lived for some years. On Main street he constructed a frame building used as Mah Poy's Chinese restaurant which was later sold to Matt Rowland for his drug store. The original house built behind the three-story building and later moved forward to the adjoining lot was sold to H. W. Nickerson, and later burned in a sudden house fire. Without firefighting apparatus, most dwellings in which a fire started were doomed. The granary, moved in from the farm served for some months as a Chinese laundry in which Gwong, the laundryman, equipped with "sad" irons and mouth-blown water sprinkler labored over the hotel sheets and pillow cases and bachelors' shirts. This building was later sold to Sam Templeton and his wife who used it as a residence for years, but eventually, it too went up in smoke.

During the construction years, experienced craftsmen and tradesmen were valued highly. Tommy Haywood, an expert chimney builder, and later, Charles Jeselon, another good brick and mortar man from Russia, were hired to do the chimneys on the numerous Olsen buildings. Mr. J. P. Gosche, Sr.



became a foreman on some of the constructions where a number of workmen were hired.

In 1914, Olsen had the contract from the North West Brewing Company for the building of the Westlock Hotel. As there was no railway to Westlock at that time, all supplies had to be shipped to Clyde and hauled to the building site by sleigh and wagon. Gosche was foreman on this job. For many reasons this contract was doomed to be a money loser. Double handling of building supplies, too much hired labor, petty thefts of ready-made supplies (windows and doors), a slack period in the economy, and finally the contractor's failing health were all contributing factors. Olsen, always a kind and sympathetic man, never refused "credit" to his customers in the lumber yard. Consequently he had many debtors, some of whom were unable and some unwilling to pay. The end result was bankruptcy.

Coupled with these catastrophies, Knud had the added care of his wife whose health was increasingly impaired with rheumatoid arthritis. Also, his malaria attacks kept recurring, and as a last blow, he developed pernicious anemia for which at that time no cure had been found. He died in 1916, leaving a crippled widow, a 10-year old child, a sizable number of livestock, some unfinished projects, some debts, and no cash flow!

Alice Olsen, strong of will and single-minded of purpose attacked the situation with all the courage she could muster. She sold the livestock, traded the store building to J. P. Gosche in return for his constructing a small three-roomed bungalow on the vacant lot adjoining her other property. She paid off the debts, as she was able with an income of \$25.00 per month received in rent from the Chinese restaurant and the large house. This meager income enabled her to pay her taxes, feed, clothe, and educate her daughter to the end of Grade XI in Clyde. Kathleen became a teacher, and later a graduate of the University of Alberta. None of this would have been possible without the sacrifices and encouragement of Alice Olsen who died in the Westlock Hospital in 1945.

Kathleen married Donald MacLachlan in 1945, and lived with him on their farm until Donald's death in 1964. Since that time their son, Bob, and his wife, Linda, have owned and operated the farm. Their daughter, Pat and her husband, Stewart Nichols and their two children have lived in Port Coquitlam, B.C. for the past 13 years.

After doing a full 34-year teaching gamut, in Clyde, Westlock, Fort McMurray, Athabasca, and latterly at the Alberta Correspondence School, Kathleen MacLachlan retired from that field, and being a country gal at heart, spends her time alternately between her city domicile and the family farm.

## Joseph Ouellette

Joseph Ouellette came from St. Anne de la Pocatiere, Quebec in 1909, at the age of thirteen. He settled with his parents south east of Legal.

In 1916, he was drafted in the Army, and spent 18 months in England. Upon returning to Canada, 1919, he met Grazila Dufreshe who was born at St. Agatha, Quebec. They were married shortly after in 1920.



Joe Oulette family.

Jeanette, Yvonne, Roger, Denise were born in Legal. In 1924, they moved southeast of Vimy, N.E. 24-58-25, W 4; there Eugene, Cecile, Herve, Rene, Lucien, Albert, Lucienne and Lucille were born. They bought another quarter section from Joe Bauchand, the one that Roger lives on today, S.W. 24-58-25, W 4. He lived there until 1944 when he moved back to Legal. Roger and his wife Celarine took over the farm and still reside there, while the rest of the family have moved to the Edmonton vicinity.

## The Pankonin Family

submitted by Fred Pankonin

On January 15th, 1948, I, Fred Pankonin and my wife Rose, along with our three children, Clifford, Ken and Shirley, arrived at Westlock by truck, planning to make our permanent home here. We came from the New Sarepta area, which is a farming community south of Edmonton. Our main reason for moving was the need for more land in a good farming district. We knew that there were better roads in the Westlock Municipality, which fact also influenced our decision to locate there.

The land description of the farm we purchased is SW¼-36-59-26-W4. This farm was originally known as the "Old Baldwin Place." It had a poor reputation, with previous owners moving off about every two years and it was said that we would go hungry there and would likely move within five years. However, this proved to be untrue, as the



Harvesting on Fred Pankonin farm.

Pankonins survived quite well for over twenty-four years and are still operating the farm.

Mixed farming was our "bread and butter" however. Over the years many turkeys and chickens were raised, and sold locally. Two years after we settled here, our daughter Sandra was born, and several years later I got a job driving a school bus for the Westlock School Division, which I held for approximately ten years. We sold the farm to our Son, Ken, in 1972.



Fred and Rosie Pankonin family. L to R: Kenny, Shirley, Sandra and Clifford.

Rose and I now reside on an acreage north of the home place. Clifford and Ken are both farming in the Westlock area. Shirley resides in St. Albert and Sandra has made her home in Fort Saskatchewan.

In closing, I have many times heard the saying; "With good fences, you have good neighbors" — not necessarily true — many a time our cattle did get out of our poor fences, yet we have always had good neighbors over the years!

## Ernie Paquette Family

Ernie is the eldest son of Frank Paquette who came to Alberta with his parents in 1900 and settled in the Wray district in the area of Riviere Qui Barre. The family came from Paquetville, Quebec.

Frank married Eleanor Mason in 1918 in what J. G. MacGregor, author of "North West of Sixteen" describes as the first mixed marriage in the district of Eastburg.



Ernie Paquette family. Back row: Frances, Dorothy and Douglas. Seated: Louis, Mona and baby Stephen, Laura and Becky, Ernie and Kathy, Linda and Maurice.

Frank and Nellie (Eleanor) did not live continuously at their farm on SW3-59-1-5 until 1919 when Nellie and Ernie, as a baby, came to the farm from Riviere Qui Barre. Two sons, Louis and Albert, and a daughter, Mary, were born to this couple later. The mother, Nellie, died in 1928.

Later, Frank Paquette left the farm to live in Westlock where he now lives.

Ernie took over the home farm in 1952. He married Laura Haack, a daughter of George and Mary Haack, old timers of the Tawatinaw district. The couple were married at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Westlock in April, 1952.

Ernie and Laura are actively engaged in farming although the family is grown now. Maurice, the oldest son, is a manager for Elswood in Regina. Doug and Francis completed their public school education at Westlock High School in 1976 and 1977 respectively. Dorothy graduated from W.H.S. in 1974, joined the armed services and went on to Royal Military College graduating in 1983 with B. Administration from the Universite de Sherbrooke. She was commissioned as a second Lieutenant on May 1, 1983 and is continuing her training. Mona graduated from Saint Mary's separate school in 1973. She married Louis Theriault and lives in Westlock. Ernie and Laura have four grandchildren.





Wedding of Laura and Ernie Paquette. Back row: Mr. and Mrs. George Haack and Mr. F. Paquette. Middle row: Clara Sabourin, Laura and Ernie Paquette, Ernie Sabourin. Flower girl: Audrey (Petryshen) Saltys.

For quite a few years, Laura operated a catering service for the community at large.

### **Louis Paquette Family**

When Flight Lieutenant Louis Paquette returned from duty as a pilot in World War II, he bought SW 16-59-1-5 from Henry Paulson who had homesteaded the quarter.

Henry Paulson came from Europe, worked first in the U.S.A. and then came to Edmonton where he



Louis and Simone Paquette with their children and grandchildren.

got employment digging sewers. He had told the boss he could dig twice as fast as two men which he did and earned double pay.

He remained a bachelor. Many of his former neighbors have fond memories of him. Some men used to gather for a friendly poker game at his house. He treated the children to candies and strawberry jam.

In 1947 Louis married Simone Comeau and built a home. His farming began as a mixed operation then later a poultry business, turkey raising — up to 3000 at a time and now it is a grain and cattle operation.

Louis and Simone had six children: Rhea (Mrs. Leslie Properzie); Martin, married to Wanda Tucker and farming with Louis and Simone; Robert, married to Paulette Desranleau also farms with his parents; Gilbert married Leah Roberts and works in Edmonton as an instrumentation engineer; Doris, a teacher, is married to Matt Meinczinger and Denise works as an accountant in Edmonton.

### **The Fred Patterson Family**

**by Muriel Shaver**

My parents, Fred and Sadie Patterson came to Westlock in 1913, the year the railroad came through.

My folks had a lumber yard at the corner of 106th Street and what is now Highway 18; "Patterson Lumber Company."

My father served on the town council, also the Chamber of Commerce, then known as the "Board of Trade" and in other organizations at that time. In 1926 the family moved to the farm west of town, which has since become the Westlock Industrial Park.

My mother was very active in church work, being church organist, choir member and Sunday School teacher, and helped in other organizations.

The family consisted of three children; Muriel (Mrs. Bernard Shaver, Westlock); Eleanor (Mrs. R. Brawner, Camrose); and Jim Patterson, N. Vancouver, B.C.

They had eight grandchildren, and of course, there are great-grandchildren.

My father died in 1930 and mother in 1974. Like many other pioneers, they contributed in many ways to the growth of our town, Westlock.

### **The Parsons Family**

**by Ethelyn (Parsons) Glover**

"Go north, young man. Go north."

Alberta was a long way from the state of Kansas but Dad heeded the call, and did go north. He travelled the Prairie Provinces in search of land where we could begin anew. Alberta was the chosen one, and in the spring of 1917, a half-section of farmland was

bought in the Duhamel district, seventeen miles south-east of Wetaskiwin. Our parents, Charles and Maude Parsons, had to make the move by August, as it would be harvest time; the grain crops were included in the land purchase. With two train cars of settlers effects, including seven head of mules, much baggage and six young children in tow: Helen, Ethelyn, Avis, Marion, Dora and Deisel — the long journey began, leaving behind our tearful families and friends, some of whom we would never see again. How excited we kids were to be going on a long train ride. Six days later we arrived in Wetaskiwin, and proceeded to our new home. Here we were to live for the next seven years, during which time the family grew to include Norma, Leslie, Pearl, and Betty. Now there were ten of us!



The Parsons family ready to leave Kansas for Alberta, 1917.

To no avail were the years of hard work, and with economic conditions worsening, we decided to move again, this time to the state of Oregon. Dad was an excellent blacksmith and carpenter, so we would travel by covered wagons. The early spring of 1924 was spent in getting two wagons in A-1 shape for the long journey — it was to last from May 24th to July 17th. The wagons were pulled by four of the mules brought from Kansas. Dad always drove the lead team with Mother following. A young gelding was taken along as a 'fill-in', if needed. He was never harnessed, but we kids did become expert bare-back riders. What great fun we had throughout the trip, though there were many anxious moments for Mother and Dad. One highlight was the night we camped overnight in a cherry orchard. The fruit season was over, but the young ones, next morning, found a tree loaded with over-ripe cherries. Just like a flock of blackbirds we descended on the tree — it was soon stripped — and we ate cherries for days. What a treat they were! We would have to stop periodically to have the animals re-shod. The wagons, at the end of the journey, were as solid as they were at the start. We were happy to reach our destination, and be amongst relatives

again. Dad went to work in the fruit orchards, and we older ones would help there, on Saturdays. Restlessness soon set in among us kids; we were crying to go back to Alberta. After only eight months in Oregon, Mother and the family returned in March, 1925 to settle in Penhold, where Dad had gone ahead of us to open a blacksmith shop. We lived there for the next eighteen months, and the family grew to number eleven, with the arrival of Carol on Christmas Day. Dad had heard that blacksmithing opportunities would be much better in the north country, due to the breaking up of farmlands. Learning there was a shop he could take over in the, then, Village of Westlock, Dad went to check it out. He liked what he saw and was much impressed with the beauty of the surrounding countryside. Yes, you've guessed it. We would move again! In the fall of 1926 we, and the Firth family, also of Penhold, would settle in Westlock. Dad and Mr. Firth (Evelyn Holt's father) took over the shop from Mr. Peter Weingard. The Firth family did not stay long in Westlock. Evelyn married and still resides here.

We lived in a small building across from Joe Feldman's livery barn. Next to us was a tailor shop operated by Mr. Sam Roteman, and next to him was a Chinese laundry. During the five months we lived there, I wrote many letters for Mr. Roteman, receiving 25¢ for each letter. He had a lady friend in New York. She could not read Jewish and he could not write English. He would tell me what to write in his love letters. That was hilarious — I would go home all giggles!

In the spring of 1927, we moved to a farm house two and a half miles east, where we lived for one year. The younger, school-aged children attended the Edison School. Avis and I walked to Westlock School. Those were memorable times, as we had the greatest pals to walk with, Fanny and Jenny Edgson, now both Sterling. The youngest member of the family had now arrived, making us an even dozen. Oh, my! What a lot of mouths to feed. At the time of this writing (1982) all twelve are still living.

The time had come to get the family onto a farm. In the spring of 1928, Dad purchased a quarter of land NW¼-36-60-27-W4, from a Mr. Campbell, two miles west and one mile south of the Hamlet of Pibroch. At last we had a home, in the Sunnybank District, and Mother vowed that would be her last move (but it wasn't!). Again, we were so fortunate to be surrounded by kindly, helpful neighbours. Many lasting friendships were made here.

Years of hard work lay ahead, but each one helped to lighten the load, and soon the farm was showing results. Mother and brother Marion carried the most responsibility, as Dad continued black-





Covered wagon trip to Oregon, 1924.

smithing for several more years, living during the week in quarters attached to the shop. Though we were now eight miles from Westlock, Dad usually walked to work on Monday mornings. One walk was well worth it — he picked up a Twenty Dollar bill from the roadside. Someone's loss was our gain! That would buy a lot of groceries at that time. The week's



Mr. and Mrs. C. Parsons.

highlight was the trip with team and "Bennett Buggy", to bring Dad home for over Sunday. Each youngster looked forward to their turn to go to town with Mother. We three older girls were now working to make our own way; Helen at Dr. Henderson's, Avis at Dr. Sands, and I at Dr. Crawford's. Even though we were making only \$20 a month, we gladly shared towards the needs at home, for it was still a struggle to make ends meet. We were into the Depression now, better known as the "Dirty Thirties". Love abounded in our home, so there was never any selfishness. I recall the year Deisel went into the Peace River country at harvest time. He worked thirty-three days without a break, and arrived home with his wages of \$77. He immediately went to the Piibroch Store and bought a good supply of flour, underwear for the small children, and a radio for Mother and Dad. How great it was to get the world news, and to have music to listen to at the end of a hard day's work.

Eight of the children attended the Sunnybank School, three miles from home. During good weather they would walk to and from school, relying on horse and buggy (or cutter) during rainstorms or in winter snow. All were taught by the same teacher, Mr. Renwick, as they advanced to the higher grades.

The summer holidays meant extra work for each one of us. As soon as school was out, the wild strawberries were ready for picking, and for the next eight weeks it was a continual gathering of wild fruits. Raspberries, saskatoons, black currants, chokecherries, the high bush, low bush, and moss cranberries all had to be picked. The fruits were in

abundance and to pick them was a pleasure. Our Mother would work till the wee hours of the morning, taking care of each day's picking. Every available container was filled with fruit, jams and jellies. To have store-bought fruit was unthinkable, though there were many times when Mr. Lindahl would make up a bag of over-ripe fruit plus a few candies, and give to Mother to take home as a treat for the children. Mr. Lindahl's heart was as big as all outdoors, for he remembered many during the hard times. For many years Mother canned fruit, usually pears, for the bachelors in our neighbourhood. Her work would be rewarded with a few jars of fruit; what a tasty delight for us. There was also a huge garden to be cared for, many tubs of peas and beans, etc., to be picked then canned or dried. 'Tis said that many hands make light work, but we often doubted that. Regardless of the many tasks that had to be done, Mother would see there would be time for play as well. What fun there was at the local picnics, the baseball games, swimming in the river, and the highlight of all, the country dances. It was unthinkable to miss one of those.

The farm was now a half-section of land, with the acquisition of the SW¼-2-61-27-W4 from Mr. Ernest Gamble. It was always referred to as "The Grant", due to Mr. Gamble having been a World War 1 veteran. Dad had also taken a homestead east of Pibroch, the NE¼-23-61-26-W4. Mr. Leo Chvoyka took over the blacksmith shop, and later would take the homestead as well. Marion moved to his farm, leaving the younger boys to help Dad with the farming. There were times when Dad would be away carpentering. Mother and the children would carry on at home. Working with Mr. Allan Nielson, Dad helped to build the Westlock United Church. He also built the big dairy barn for Mr. Roddick, south of

Pibroch. To get to work meant a two mile trek across the fields. Many times during the winter, Dad would reach home with the tip of his nose frozen, and often a little icicle hanging from it.

During the times when the river and creek would flood, Mother always found time to reach out her hand and help where the need was greatest, whether it be accommodation or food. A bountiful garden provided much for sharing.

One memory of those early years that I shall never forget, was the time I went home for Christmas. The weather was extremely cold and no one had gone out to shop for Christmas treats. A blinding snowstorm struck on Christmas Eve. How could one go out in that, even though the store would be open till midnight? The Little Ones, bless their hearts, hung up their stockings as they went off to bed, hoping that Santa would leave them some candies. Mother had baked a few goodies to put in the stockings. As the evening wore on, there was no sign of the storm abating, and Dad began to pace the floor. At 10:30 he bundled up warmly, and set out to walk the three miles into Pibroch. The little ones would get their treats!

The years have rolled by, the family now grown and away on their own. The older ones have married and are raising their families. The younger girls went to work in Edmonton. The economic conditions were improving with the outbreak of World War 2. Deisel and Leslie joined the Air Force. Jack went to work in the Northwest Territories, returning later to Alberta to spend many years in the Oilfields.

Following the war and return to civilian life, Leslie took over the home farm, and Deisel bought a farm to the south-east. Mother and Dad moved into Pibroch, and blacksmithing again became the way of life for Dad, and he would spend the next thirteen years doing what he enjoyed the most.

Auction Marts were now becoming big business, so Leslie and Deisel sold their farms and took up auctioneering. They, with their Dad's help, built the Barrhead Auction Mart, and operated it in partnership, for twelve years. With the help of their faithful wives, the business boomed. Leslie wanting to branch out on his own, went to Campbell River, on Vancouver Island, where he built and operated an Auction Mart with much success. Deisel's son, Charles, joined him in the business. Following Phebe's death, they sold the Mart but carried on with farm and residential sales. Jack quit work in the oilfields and took up Auctioneering, having his own business in Edmonton for a time, eventually selling out and doing just straight sales.

Mother and Dad sold their Pibroch home when they could no longer carry on, due to failing health.



The Charles Parsons family at home on the farm. R to L: Charles, Parsons Sr., Maude Parsons, Helen, Ethelyn, Avis, Marion, Dora, Deisel, Norma, Leslie, Pearl, Betty, Carol, Faye, Jack.



In the fall of 1963, they took up residence at Pembina Lodge, and lived there for seven and a half years. Following a few weeks in the Auxiliary Hospital, Dad passed away in April, 1971. Mother was moved to the Nursing Home, where she passed away in August, 1975. An era ended for our beloved parents.

Norma is the only family member still residing in the area of the old home place. The others are now distantly scattered.

Helen, the oldest, married Wilfred Reeves of Penhold. They have one son, Marvin and have lived on the same farm for 52 years, retiring to reside in Red Deer.

I, Ethelyn, married Bill Glover of Hazel Bluff (now deceased) and had one son, Harvey (deceased). We farmed in the Bluff district for nine years, then moved to Westlock, taking over a farm machinery dealership. I still am a Westlock resident.

Avis married John Baxandall of Westlock district. They have two children, Lola and James. They farmed in the Pickardville and Pibroch areas, before retiring to make their home at Black Creek, on Vancouver Island.

Marion married Mary Grasby, of the Sunniebend District and they have four children, Beverly, Delaine, Donis and Wesley. They sold their Pibroch farm and moved to a large acreage north of the Westlock Golf course, where they still reside.

Dora married Walter Wegreen of Red Deer. Their two children are Vivien and Gerald. Walter, now deceased, served in the Canadian Army through World War 2, and was a carpenter in civilian life. His wife still resides in Red Deer.

Deisel married Phebe Lyons of Hazel Bluff, who is now deceased. Three children were born of this union, Diane, Charles and Frederick. After leaving the farm and going into business, they made their home in Westlock, where Deisel still resides.

Norma married Albert Van Nieuvenhuyse of the Hazel Bluff district. They have been living on their farm, with their two children Nolan and Fay, for forty two years, where father and son carry on a large farming operation. Norma is known for her beautiful gardens.

Leslie married Helen Bannister of the Pembina Heights district, and they have two children, Paul and Lois. Since retiring from the "Mart" business, they have made their home in Comox, on Vancouver Island.

Pearl married Herbert Neumann of Edmonton. Their three children are Karen, Donna and John. They had the General Store in Linaria for a number of years, then returned to Edmonton, where they operated an upholstery business until retiring to live in

Chilliwack, BC for five years. They now reside on an acreage in Ardrossan.

Betty married Edward Phillips of Boulder, Colorado, who is now deceased. There were four children; Eldon, Eloyce, Garry and Evelyn, (deceased). After the children were grown, Betty studied and became an "Electrolysisist." She makes her home in Richland, Washington.

Carol married Lawrence Graham of Edmonton. There were three children, Dwayne (deceased), Heather and Faye. They are still in the work force, with plans to retire on their 80-acre farm at Manola.

Jack married Almeda Dow of Marwayne and they have two children, Shannon and Laura. Edmonton has always been home to them.

## Alfred Parton

by Kathleen MacLachlan

"Free farms, 160 acres in Canada" was the caption in a newspaper which caught Alf Parton's eye and his imagination. So in early 1904 he sold his London grocery business, transported his personal possessions by horse drawn van from New Southgate to board ship at Liverpool. At age 29, Parton, with his wife and children, Alf aged 6, Douglas 5, Isabel 2, and his sister, Mabel, made the stormy crossing on the "Tunesian", landing at Halifax, and thence by colonist car via Calgary to Edmonton.

Having been in the grocery business in London, Alf Parton and his wife were completely unfamiliar with homesteading procedures in the Clyde area. They were, however, young, ambitious, and willing to learn.

The Beaton family were real friends to the Par-



The Parton family (1917 ?). L to R: Douglas, Alfred, Isabel, Mrs. Parton, Mr. Parton, Walter.

tons in many ways. Mr. Beaton and his son, Jim, directed Alf to the quarter on which he filed — N.W.-10-60-25-W4. The Beaton's offer of an unused log shack as a residence was accepted by Alf who lived there while procuring materials to build his own house nearby. From this base, he made several trips with Beaton's horses to bring supplies and his family from Edmonton. The Parton's temporary log house was later replaced by a spacious two-story frame building used by several successive owners and still stands.

Some of Alf's early land breaking was done by oxen whose movements were very slow, but whose power was very great. These mighty plodders were superseded in due time by faster moving horses which made much better time traveling on the road. Alf had to learn how to manoeuvre these animals in their various duties.

Mrs. Parton also had many things to learn such as bread-making, and butter-making. She had the unhappy experience of working the churn for hours without producing the desired butter. Again Jim Beaton came to her rescue telling her to have the cream at a warmer temperature. She set it beside the stove, and with the cream at warm room temperature her churning produced butter! She later gained a reputation for having some of the best butter in the community.



Mrs. Tom Williams and Isabel Parton.

Alf Parton's long business experience made his services in great demand. When the Dungannon School District was formed in February 1906, he was Senior Trustee, and in April of the same year he was Treasurer for the school. In 1919 when the Clyde Consolidated School was built, he was Chairman of the Board facing the fact that the building estimated to cost \$6,000 actually cost \$9,000! To meet the added costs, the District had to raise property assessments. Farmers had been charged \$35 per quarter per annum, while each villager paid a flat rate of \$2 per annum. Parton called for a property assessment, and fixed mill rate to be applied. This resulted in the villagers paying a much higher share of the taxes — and a feeling of animosity toward the author of their increased tax. Nevertheless, it was a fairer distribution of the burden.

Another rather frustrating experience Parton had was with the Clyde Co-op. A group of persons in the community decided to form a cooperative general store with capital obtained from shares at \$5 each. Alf's knowledge of retail business made him a logical choice for manager, to receive a salary of 8% of gross sales. So with \$300 subscribed capital and hopes of more, he approached wholesalers to give him a line of credit to carry on. Under his management the business prospered for a year. After one very profitable week with sales of \$900 his earnings of \$72 seemed too much in the view of some of the shareholders who thought he should take a lesser salary than he had contracted for. Incidentally, he walked 3 miles morning and night to and from work. At the end of a year's operations, Parton resigned, and a few months later, the venture folded. Having farmed near Clyde for 19 years, Alf traded his 3 quarters for one quarter in the St. Albert area, which he operated for the next six years. After selling this farm, his next undertaking was the purchase of a pool room in Edmonton for \$5,000 which he operated from 1929 to 1947 when he sold it for \$30,000. With this capital, some other monies, and bank loans he purchased a Hardware Store and stock at Stony Plain. His youngest, son, Walter and his wife, Vic, with some hired help ran this business. Alf used to commute to Stony Plain from Edmonton twice a week to do the bookkeeping.

Alf Parton and his wife, who have now passed on, lived into their nineties. The last major task Parton undertook was the writing of his autobiography. **The Story of My Life**, published by Vantage Press of New York, which gives an excellent account of his pioneering experiences.

Of the Parton family, Alf Junior, after returning from World War I, married Alma Hyde, and lived most of the remainder of his life in the Westlock area



where their daughters, Isabel Bruder and Elsie McMaster also live. Isabel married John Crozier, and still lives on the family farm now operated by her son, Chester, near St. Albert. Doug, a Veteran of World War II, now lives in the Veteran's Home in South Edmonton. Walter and his wife still live in Stony Plain.

### **Harvey and Lenora Paull by Lenora**

We came to Westlock in November of 1974, to visit our daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Terry Ross. We liked Westlock — it was a friendly town, and just the right size — and we decided to make our home here.

We had farmed at Haynes, Alberta, which is half-way between Red Deer and Stettler, for twenty-two years. Harvey was a University student when we were married in 1946. He had joined the armed forces in 1940, when in Lacombe, and had spent five years with the R.C.A.F., R.A.F. and S.A.A.F.

When we came here it was not really Harvey's first time. He had lived here in 1917 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Paull, on a farm one miles west of town. (It was owned then by Roy Hardy, and later by the Watlings.)

The holes had been dug for the telephone line, and when he and the family dog were playing, he fell into one of them. His mother missed him, and couldn't find him anywhere. When she went to where the dog insisted on staying, she found her toddler in the deep hole!

We have two grandchildren here, Sherrill and Danny Ross. Our daughter Jean, and her husband, Johan Nielsen, live in Toronto.

We make occasional visits back to our home district, and to Joffre, to see Harvey's sister. I have two brothers in rural Sherwood Park, which was formerly my home. We enjoy activities here, and the company of our new-found friends.

### **Peacock Family**

Due to the dry weather in the Scotfield area, the Peacocks decided to try somewhere else, so they moved to what was known as the "Witheral" farm in the Echo Hill district in 1925.

Mrs. Levina Peacock and her family — Bruce, Lawrence, Murray, Emma, Allen, Carlyle and Gordon moved their livestock, machinery and household effects. Lawrence and Murray farmed at this farm, while Bruce returned to Scotfield to carry on there. Emma attended Westlock High School, while the younger three children attended Vermilion Springs School. They took part in community activities as well as the Busby Church, and made many friends.

When rains returned to the Prairies again, they decided to return to Scotfield, after a three year stay here.

Lawrence taught school in various places in Alberta and retired to Edmonton in 1967.

Emma was a nurse, but died of cancer a few years ago.

The other Peacock boys settled in the south-central part of Alberta, and periodically return to Edmonton to visit friends.

### **Henry Pelletier Family**

Henry Pelletier and his wife, (nee Yolande Laforce), with their little daughter, Simone, left Legal in 1951 to come to Vimy to open up a Garage, Confectionery, Service Station. The business was named and known as Pelletier Esso Service. It was situated on 2 acres of land on the NW¼-33-58-25-W4th. which was purchased from Vital Lachance in the spring of 1951. A house which was formerly owned by Albert Lachance was also purchased from Vital, and this was moved on to the two-acre parcel of land in the fall of 1951. Henry hired his brother Philip to help him construct a frame building which served as the Garage, Confectionery and Service Station. The building was completed in 1951, and Jack Dusseault levelled the driveways with the road patrol after construction was finished. One gas pump was installed at the time. The first customer was a tourist from the United States who got his vehicle stuck alongside the pump, as there was no gravel in the driveways yet. From then on, business kept coming in from Highway #2.



Henry Pelletier in front of his business place (Pelletier Service Garage) Vimy.

Henry did a lot of mechanic work and welding for the people of Vimy and surrounding district. He didn't mind working late hours to accommodate people. Later the business was extended to include bulk gas sales. He purchased a truck in 1963 for the purpose of delivering gas and oil. With hard work and the support of good, dependable customers, he managed to operate a prosperous business until his death on March 31st, 1969. Maurice Huot, Louis Despin and Leo Provencal were working for Henry at the time of his decease.

Henry and Yolande had three daughters and one son; Simone, born at Legal, Louise, Agnes and Yvon, all born at Vimy. The four children are now married and on their own. Yolande is still living in her home at Vimy corner, and has eleven grandchildren.



Henry and Yolande Pelletier with daughters Simone, Louise, Agnes and son Yvon.

Simone married Raymond Houle and moved on to a farm in the district of Pickardville, where they raise cattle and grain.

Louise married Norman Boissonneault and moved to the district of Morinville on a farm in 1970. They are grain and dairy farmers.

Agnes married Raymond Rivard and is now living on a farm in the Legal area, where they took up residence in 1973. Their main occupation is raising hogs and grain farming.

Yvon married Rachelle Houle of Morinville in 1978. They are living at Vimy corner in their mobile home with their little daughter Suzanne, born at Vimy December 14th 1979. Yvon is a licenced mechanic and is practicing his trade.

## Ludovic T. Pelletier

He came to Edmonton from St. Roch-des-aulnaies, P.Q. on May 10, 1910. He worked at a brickyard at Fort Saskatchewan, also at Brickyard south of the Saskatchewan River. In 1917 he bought a farm at Legal but someone told him to raise sheep there. That didn't turn out so good and he lost everything. Also he got married April 11, 1917 to Yvonne Marneaux and bought another farm at Vimy in 1919 from the C.P.R. He worked really hard there because that was all bush in 1920. He had cleared 5 to 10 acres of land but then it froze for 3 years; couldn't get a crop. By this time he already had 3 children. He built a log house and barn, log chicken house, granary also of log and a little outhouse. For many years he really worked hard. The children kept coming, every year a newborn. All the beds were handmade by Dad. Mom would make mattresses with flour sacks and we would fill them up with straw. We were all happy; we would jump with joy (new mattress). We always had a good night's sleep. In 1925, the oldest had to go to school so Gertie went to Edmonton convent. The following year Achille had to go too. So this time it was Morinville convent. Till this day I don't know how he paid for their school. In 1928 he bought his first car. Then I, Marguerite, and Aurelie started school, but we went to Boudreau School, S.D. of Westlock. Mom drove us with the car when she could, or we went with a little old horse called Fatty. We stayed home a lot, due to snow and road conditions. Many times we had a run-away horse and sleigh went with it. In a case like that all the children would help each other out. At Boudreau School is where the rest of us got our junior grade. There was Gertrude, Achille, I (Marguerite), Aurelie, Aline, Adrienne, Maria, Gerard, Ann Marie and Iriene. About this time they closed the school and the rest went to Vimy School.

With all the sickness and bad luck he raised 10 of us. Then finally in 1950 he moved to Edmonton where he stayed till 1982. He is now at the Chateau at Legal.

## Yvon and Rachelle Pelletier

Yvon was born on August 5, 1956. He is the only son of Henry and Yolande Pelletier of Vimy.

He married Rachelle Houle on April 15, 1978 at St. Baptist Church in Morinville. Rachelle is the daughter of Hector and Marianne Houle.

Yvon and Rachelle are now living at Vimy Corner. They have two daughters: Suzanne, born December 14, 1979 and Louise, born July 13, 1983.

Yvon is a licensed mechanic and is presently working in Westlock.





Yvon and Rachelle Pelletier on their wedding day, April 15, 1978.



Louise Angelle Pelletier born July 13, 1983.

## The W. Harry Peter Family 1929 — 1984 by "W. Harry Peter and Marion H. Peter"

Harry was born in Kincardine, Ontario, and spent his formative years there. When he returned from overseas after the First World War he worked in Ontario and Manitoba. He met Marion McLennan in 1920 when she was a student nurse at the Winnipeg General Hospital. Marion was born in Russell, Manitoba. After Marion graduated she worked in Winnipeg, Estevan, Saskatchewan and Los Angeles, California. When she returned to Winnipeg, Harry and Marion were married, July 22, 1926. They lived in Rosetown, Saskatchewan, for three years and moved to Westlock with two of their three children, Kathleen and Bill, in April 1929. Their third child, Margery, was born in Westlock. Harry worked in the J. E. Hunter Hardware and the Westlock Funeral Home and Ambulance Service for a number of years.

As children we can recall the long hours our Dad put in driving the ambulance, sometimes under very poor road and weather conditions. He covered a large territory, South of Athabasca to Legal, East to Thorhild and West to Rossington. He was active in the community, particularly with the Legion. When Harry bought the Westlock Funeral Home and Ambulance Service in 1953 he enlarged it to include a Chapel. Harry passed away October 17, 1959. The Funeral Home was sold to Ron Johnson in 1960.

Marion was very involved with the United Church and many other community activities. She resided in Westlock until 1975 when she moved to the Fellburn Hospital in Burnaby, British Columbia. Besides her three children, Marion has eleven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

The original Family Home was built in 1929 was sold in 1963 to Stan Bott. The House is located at (to Editor: I do not know the street address. It is the same street as the Johnson Jones Funeral Home. On the South side of the street, East and next door to Bob and Marion Sutherlands present home).

Kathleen, Bill and Margery completed their Grade XII in Westlock. Kathleen moved to Edmonton in 1946 to take a Secretarial Course and worked there until 1954. She married Lyal Kennedy from Delburne, Alberta, in 1954. Lyal works for the Bank of Montreal. After living in nine major centers in Alberta they have resided in Edmonton since 1973. They have one son and two daughters.

Bill worked for Don Stanton and Pat Conkin in the Red and White store during his formative years. When he finished Grade XII in 1947, he worked for the Bank of Montreal. In 1950 he moved to Edmonton where he worked for the Edmonton Journal. In 1955 he married Winona Lundrigan, formerly of Evansburg, Alberta. She was a nurse in Edmonton

when they met. They lived in Edmonton until 1975 when they moved to Burnaby, British Columbia. At that time, Bill accepted a job with "The Province" newspaper in Vancouver as Advertizing Director. They have two sons and two daughters.

When Margery finished Grade XII in 1949, she moved to Vancouver as a student nurse at the Vancouver General Hospital. She later worked for the Red Cross in Edmonton. She married Eric Olson from Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1952. After living in a number of cities across Canada they are now settled in Coquitlam, British Columbia. Eric is employed with Olsen Furnace and Air Conditioning Ltd. They have two daughters and two sons.

**Martin and Hulda Peterson**  
**by Helen Zadunski**

My parents, Martin and Hulda Peterson arrived in Clyde, Alberta from North Dakota in the fall of 1913 with myself, Helen, my two sisters Alice and Evelyn and my brother Elmer. After settling four miles north of Rossington, two more daughters were born, Ruth and Ethel.



The Martin Peterson family, 1915.

In 1915 the first school was formed in the district called Pembina Heights in which my father, Martin Peterson, was one of the first trustees.

Another family that settled in the district were Quinton and Gertrude Golder who arrived from En-

gland in 1902, to homestead on the Pembina River ten miles from Westlock. Their son, Thomas, was born in Fort Edmonton in 1903 and married me, Helen, on our farm in 1923. Quinton and Gertrude relocated to settle in Lysight, Wyoming in 1924.

In 1932 my parents moved to Vancouver, Washington, with two of my sisters, Ruth and Ethel, who still reside in the State of Washington. My sister, Alice now resides in Barrhead, while my sister Evelyn and I reside in Kelowna, B.C.

Our brother, Elmer, having returned to the U.S.A. sometime after our parents, resided there until his death in 1980.



Martin Peterson hauling logs for a granary and workshop.

**Clover Valley Area**  
**by Mdme. Leda Petrin**

On a beautiful spring day in 1909, we moved from the town of Morinville to settle twenty-five miles north on a farm near Edison. Edison was later



Louis Legasse and Malvina Majeau wedding picture — 1889.



moved three miles west to form the beginning of Westlock in 1913. It was a big change in my life. I was only nine years old, but I enjoyed the new experience between town life and farm living.

On our way, travelling in a democrat pulled by a team of horses, with my mother and dad (Mr. and Mrs. Louis Legasse) we had to cross the Vermilion River west of Vimy, driving through the water. I was a little bit scared at first, but had confidence we were safe as long as my mother and father were with me. Also with me were my fifteen-year-old sister, Annie, and my two brothers, Frank, eleven years old and seven-year-old Henry.

The road circled the prairies and we stopped to talk to Mr. Morissette, a bachelor homesteader. Later, Mr. Bouchard came to settle near the area, in addition to Nelson Brown, Raymond Johnson and Pat O'Brien.

Farther along, we came to where Arthur Morin had settled with his wife Julia (Lavallée) who was the sister of my brother-in-law, Caspar Lavallée. That district was called "Dunrobin" at the time, but is now called Vimy.

Finally, we arrived at the end of our journey where I was to live until I married in 1923. The place was called Edison and consisted of a school and a stopping place kept by a family named Marshall. Mr. Marshall used to run a stage and mail service from

Morinville to Edison. There was also a farmer by the name of Jack Edgson and a little store kept by Mr. and Mrs. Sheppy. A few farmers by the names of Garrison, Zaczkowski, and Beauchamp lived nearby.

We settled two miles south of Edison corner. My father had his sawmill moved into our yard where he sawed lumber for himself and the farmers around the area. We hired Mr. Mercier (not related to Joe Mercier) and his son, Francois, to build our house, a barn and a chicken house, that summer. The next two years, Mr. Couturier and his two sons, built a granary (40' x 60') and a large machine shed. The Couturiers painted the house in a cream colour with dark brown windowsill trim. It was a beautiful view to see the buildings, while coming south from the Edison corner, as they were built on the slant of a beautiful hill.

The granary had four bins on the lower floor for feed grain, and the upstairs was left especially for dancing. People would come from as far as fifteen miles around, to dance at our place. My oldest brother, Johnny, played the violin, and my brother Henry was floor manager. My father used to say that he preferred having the amusements at home so he would know where his children were and whom they went with.

We also had a race track where Dad and Johnny raced on their sulkies with retired race horses "Bill" and "Babe". Inside the race track was a baseball diamond where we competed with Pickardville and LaCalmette teams. LaCalmette is no more now, but it was situated four miles south of the correction line.

My father also had a big band of horses which used to run loose on the prairie. He would round them up every year, in the spring and fall, and would catch new three year olds to train to horseback riding and harness. We had a big corral to turn them in, and kept colts in the barn to wean them. My Dad would lasso the horses to brand them and break them in. It was so natural for him to do this as he had been a cowboy for four years before he met my mother. Johnny played cowboy and broke the wild horses. I never once saw him fall. After the horse balked at the spot, he would take a run in the field and come back with Johnny still on his back, and he would be broken. My father said that if Johnny had fallen, the horse would never be broken again.

My mother and father met in St. Albert in 1885 and were married in 1886. They moved to his homestead, six miles south and one mile east of Morinville, in Township 55, Range 25, West of the 4th meridian, on September 1, 1886. My mother had been previously married to Dolphus Bertrand but became a widow in 1884.

A three-month journey had brought her west in the summer of 1882 from Winnipeg, by covered



Eloi Petrin family — 1928.



Louis Legasse family. Back row: Leda, Helene, Frank, Bertrand, Johnny and Henry. Front row: Annie, Louis (father), Melvina (mother), and Agnes.

wagon. She gave birth to my eldest sister, Nellie, on December 16 that year. Her husband had come in the early spring to pave the way, but had a surprise when he saw mother in the fall. They already had an eighteen-month-old boy, named Zenon.

In 1913, Zenon settled on his homestead in the Westlock District, next to my father, and became a very good farmer, even though he had two artificial legs. He never married but he controlled his horses so well that they made up for the loss of his legs. He cultivated his farm, and even broke his horses with the help of his faithful team, "Dan" and "Brown." They knew the sound of his voice and would not move a leg until he told them.

Zenon lost his legs through the rudeness of the country he lived in. He had a bad fall on the ice of the Sturgeon River at St. Albert and hurt his knee. As time went on, his knee started to pain and kept getting worse until my father sent him and the family by train to Calgary, and from there to Montreal, in 1887, as there were no doctors here yet. The train came as far as Calgary from Winnipeg in 1887. Doctors had to perform two operations on his leg. The first time they took the damage off his knee and inserted a bolt to join the knee together. He had a shorter leg, but at least he could walk on it. Unfortunately, the operation was not a success, so the doctors had to operate a second time and amputated his leg four inches from his body. He was eighteen years old when he came back from Montreal with a peg leg. In 1905, his ankle on the other leg gave him trouble, so the doctor in Morinville treated it by pushing carbolic acid water, in a syringe, through his ankle. The water went right through the joint but didn't help because he could no longer walk on it. He had the second leg removed below the knee in 1906 or 1907.

My Father sold his homestead in 1900 and moved

the family to Morinville where he opened the first hotel. By that time we were a family of seven children. Born on the homestead were Johnny, Agnes, Annie, Frank and myself. When we moved to Morinville, Johnny was ten years old, Agnes was eight, Annie was two years younger, Frank had reached the age of three and I was only three months old. Henry was born in the hotel two years later.

In 1903, my Father sold the hotel and built a house, butcher shop and a slaughter house combined with a barn, all in one building. He hired a butcher and learned the trade. He had another man look after the horses and cow in the barn, and tend to those that ran loose. The business ran by itself most of the time, so my Father bought a lumber limit in the Clover Valley area, 25 miles north-west of Morinville, and put up a sawmill in 1905. He had a hired man by the name of Zephire Martin, who worked as steam engineer, as well as a well-known man from Westlock by the name of Billy Wood, as sawyer. He had married Nellie Pollard, also from Westlock.

My Father travelled back and forth between the sawmill and Morinville carrying the groceries and all camp supplies. The lumber was hauled by oxen to Morinville, which took two days for the 25-mile trip. The oxen were used because there was muskeg to cross near the sawmill and only oxen were able to pull the load over the corduroy road. Horses would cross the muskeg but only if they were not carrying a load. Otherwise they would panic if they started to sink through the poles which formed the road. The sawmill was located about one mile south of where the Clover Valley School was later built.

In 1914, during the first World War, we attended the Clover Valley School in the summer months, from May through August. The Edison School was closed down due to the shortage of teachers. The council had my father take the task of driving the children four miles from Edison to Clover Valley School. My brother Henry was given charge by my father of driving us back and forth to school six miles, twice a day. We rode in the stage my father had used when he kept the Morinville Hotel and transported passengers from the railroad station to the hotel. The stage had seats on each side lengthwise, and there was a stairway on the back with a few steps to help one get in and out. My brother Henry, who was only twelve years old at the time, managed very well with the driving, feeding and harnessing of this team of horses. It rained a lot, which made it difficult for the little cayuses to pull the load.

In September, our good teacher, Miss Daphne Garrison, taught school closer to her home, only a half mile north to the Edison School. She was an excellent teacher and we all loved her.



The year before, in 1913, the railroad had passed through Westlock and our teacher at that time, Archie Brown, brought us kids to see how they laid the rails down on the ties so the train could pass over, etc. We found it very interesting. I never forgot my first ride on that new train, soon after, when my father brought me to see his sawmill, 21 miles north of Westlock, at Jarvie. The train was very rough to ride in.

My father had moved the sawmill that year and had the misfortune of losing all the money he had invested in the sawmill business, because the party he had signed the contract with, went bankrupt in the fall and Dad didn't get paid. He spent a lot of time going back and forth to his lawyer, Mr. Gardham of Westlock, to help keep on his two feet. He was not young any more and to lose so much money really affected him. Joe Mercier, my brother-in-law, bought some of the machinery and assisted any way he could. His son, Albert, resides on his father's farm at present, two miles east and one mile south of Westlock. This was the last year my father had the sawmill. He had moved it from a lumber limit where he sawed lumber in 1912 and 1913, six miles north of the Edison corner. We used to pass through Mr. Thachuk's yard and the sawmill was about a half mile north and a little west of there. Mrs. Gougeon and Mrs. St. Jean were the camp cooks in 1912 and 1913 respectively, and their husbands worked at the mill. Later, both families took homesteads nearby and became permanent residents of the Westlock district.

When we travelled to Clover Valley in 1914, the school district did not have many children, so this was why the Edison school children could attend at Clover Valley. Those who attended were the Sterlings, Russell, Rae, Rita and George. Also their cousins, Myron and Mae Cannard, and Maryanne Pollard came to the school that year. Our group from Edison were; Norman Garrison, Joe and Ferdina Beauchamp's children and Mabel and Gilbert Birk. Miss Daphne Garrison travelled in the stage with us, too. The Clover Valley School and District were quite new at the time.

Just a little bit south was a muskeg with spruce trees, and we picked low-bush cranberries there up to 1934, (and spruce gum!) I used to come and spend a good part of the day during the summer picking cranberries on the moss while listening to the birds singing and watching the squirrels play hide and seek around me. I would eat my lunch there and walk two miles back home after I had filled my ten pound Roger's Syrup pail with berries.

My father's sawmill had been three quarters of a mile south of the Clover Valley School in 1905-1909. He had moved there and sawed lumber while Johnny and Mother attended to the butcher shop in Morinville. Frank Swingler, the butcher at the time, gave it

a start and then left in 1906. Mr. Bissonette had charge of the barn and horses, a couple of cows and a few chickens.

It was in 1923 that I married Eloi Petrin, a newcomer to the Westlock district. He had resided at Riviere Qui Barre when very young. His father sold their farm to move his family of ten children to the Peace River district in 1912. Eloi was then only fourteen years old. They travelled by horse to Athabasca Landing, then on the river to Smith. From there they went by land to Lesser Slave Lake and crossed by boat to Grouard and Jousard at the west end of the lake. Finally, after travelling farther west some fifty miles, they arrived at Falher, where only a few French settlers lived at the time. Eloi's father, Felix Petrin, built a large log house, and with the help of seven growing daughters, opened up a stopping place for new settlers. The Petrin family moved back to Westlock in 1919 and bought a three-quarter-section parcel of land from Joe Beauchamp. Only five children were still living at home, Eloi, Lucy, Albert, Alma and Jeanette. The others had all married and left home. This is how I met my husband and married later.

We moved to our farm half a mile south of Clover Valley school in the year 1927, from the farm we had rented half a mile south of the Edison corner, opposite Mr. Garrison. The house belonged to my brother-in-law, Louis Normandeau. Our farm had only forty acres under cultivation at the time, so my husband went to the lumber camps at Chisholm in the winter, which helped to get us started. He spent the first three winters of our married life at the lumber camps.

Our farm at Clover Valley consisted of the best soil in the area and with the help of some cattle, but mostly pigs, we did very well. We had ten sows farrowing twice a year, and Eloi counted not more than ten piglets from each sow. Mr. Murfitt bought our cattle and Aime Fortier would make one or two trips a month to Edmonton by truck to haul our pigs to the packing plant during the summer. Mr. Fortier drove the truck and I would get a ride with him to Edmonton so that I could do my shopping. This helped us make a home and assisted us in acquiring our necessities, especially clothing and shoes for the family.

We passed through the depression of the "thirties" by selling our wheat at a low price. Number one wheat sold at thirty cents a bushel, but our crops were damaged in 1930, so we only received ten cents a bushel. Many people needed welfare, but we were fortunate we didn't have to. Eloi bought a grain crusher and a saw, and crushed grain and sawed firewood for the farmers. Our welfare boy, fifteen-year-old Sam Stefanczin helped us with the chores.

At first, we lived in a 20' x 30' log shack, where three of our children were born. In 1935 we were able to build a new squared-log house, when the wheat sold for one dollar a bushel. It was there that our youngest daughter, Lorraine, was born on September 23, 1936. Lea was born in 1924 at my mother's home. We were living on a rented farm half a mile east of Clover Valley school then. Felix was born in Jack Baldwin's house, which belonged to my brother-in-law, in 1926. Normand, Alice and Raymond were born after we moved into our log shack on the farm in the Clover Valley area.

We were a happy family, even though we didn't have much, but we never seemed to be without comfort and had plenty to eat. The children played with the Shetland ponies, either riding on them or hooking them up to a cart. Once a year I had the children invite their friends to come to Felix' birthday party on July 2nd. School was dismissed by then for the summer so the children were able to come. That time of year was berry-picking time, and I would send the children to pick strawberries so that I could make them a strawberry shortcake. Since they all liked to play fortune telling, I would make each of them a prize from gadgets I found in my button box. I wrapped each gift in wax paper and put them in the cake dough before baking. A five cent piece meant you would be rich; a penny, and you would be poor; a button, you'd be a tailor or seamstress; a bolt, you would be a mechanic; a screw meant you would be a carpenter; a medal would mean you would be a nun or a clergyman, etc. Along with the cake they drank lemonade. Those born in July would blow out the candles on the cake. Felix, Lea and Alice were all born in July. All the children enjoyed riding the ponies.

It was difficult to get teachers to come and teach in the country, so we often changed. The first teacher for our family was Russell Sterling. He was not married at the time but was, soon after. Lea was the first of our children to start school, in 1931 at Clover Valley. After Russell Sterling married, he settled on his father's farm just a mile straight east of us across the fields. Their eldest daughter, Vera, who is now Mrs. Douglas Brown of Busby, and our youngest daughter, Lorraine, were the same age, and they started school together and became very good friends. They used to cut across the fields and visit each other, and sometimes Lorraine rode one of our three ponies to go there. Vera's two brothers, Aubrey and Keith, also played with them.

The Clover Valley School had quite a lot of pupils attending. We had grades one through eight taught there. The older children would have to go elsewhere to study past grade eight. Lea and Alice went to

Edmonton when their turn came, and Normand rode to Pickardville on horseback to take his grade nine. He had seven miles to go, besides helping his Dad with the chores. Felix could not do much because he was sick with bronchitis most of the time and he was allergic to animals. He has been alright since he left the farm. Joe Beauchamp's children attended Clover Valley school with our children, along with Jim Pollard's, Cloutier's, Fortier's, John and August Kramps'; Cust's, Chevrier's, Dickeson's, Johnny Marshall's, Sterling's, Jollivette's and children of other families.

In 1946, our daughter, Alice, was stricken with polio during an epidemic, and was hospitalized from September of that year to May, 1947, in the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton. She was just seventeen years old. After she came home, having to use a wheelchair and then crutches, we decided to move to Edmonton so that she could be happier. During the winter on the farm, we would often be snowed in and would have to make roads through the fields in places, so we didn't go out much. We moved to Edmonton in the fall of 1947 to a big seven room house on 114 Street and 102 Avenue. For the next two years Eloï and I would travel back and forth to put the crop in, until we sold the farm in 1949. Eloï found it hard at first, having nothing to do, until he started building houses on lots we had bought in Jasper Place. He hired a carpenter and happily passed away the time, until he got sick with cancer. He passed away on October 29, 1961.

I have since moved to Kiwanis Place, where I have been for the last ten years. Most of my family also live in Edmonton. I am blessed with thirty grandchildren and thirty-eight great-grandchildren, and enjoy them all very much. Time goes by so fast. I am very grateful for all the help we receive from the Federal and Provincial Governments and from my family. I am also very thankful to be living in such a wonderful place. We have such good regulations here, and amusements. I enjoy playing bridge and I like to dance. All the oldtimers here dance, and pass the time away by playing bridge.

### **Sidney Hugh Phillips Family by Sam Yoemans**

Sidney Hugh Phillips was born on September 3, 1894, in Thessalon, Ontario. He, along with his brother, Luther, and their father, came from Thessalon in 1902 and homesteaded north of Pickardville. The house they built there was the scene of many dances for the area residents.

In 1907, Luther went to Edson, but Sid stayed and helped his father break land on Shaw's and White-oak's places.



Winnifred Mary Yoemans, who later became Sid's wife, was born in New Zealand on April 30, 1903, and came to the area from Roche Percee, Saskatchewan in 1912, with her family. Sid and Winnie were married on June 26, 1918 and have five living children. Their first son, James Sidney was born December 12, 1920, and their first daughter followed in July 15, 1922.



Sid Phillips with baby Jim, 1920.

In 1924, the Phillips' purchased land on section 21-58-26-W4 from the Western Land Company, and this was to be their home for the next twenty-six years. During that time two more sons and a daughter were born into the family. William Hugh was born May 6, 1924, Thelma Jean arrived on June 30, 1927 and on October 1, 1938, Ralph Elmer came into the world.

Farming was the Phillips' main means of livelihood but Sid supplemented the farm income in the thirties by custom sawing firewood in the area. Also, as with many at that time, Sid worked on the public roads to pay land taxes.

The original home on the farm was burned down in the winter of 1945, while Sid and Winnie were in Victoria, B.C., so many old pictures and mementos of early years were lost.

The farm was sold early in 1951 and a public auction was held on March 14, 1951, to dispose of the machinery, etc. The purchaser of the farm was E.



Winnie Phillips with Jim and Mildred, 1922 or 1923.

Janke. Sid and Winnie moved to Fifth Street, Victoria, B.C. in 1950. They had spent many winters in Victoria since 1944. They now reside in the James Bay Lodge, 338 Simcoe St., Victoria, B.C.

James Sidney left home in 1939 to join the Canadian Air Force. He now resides in Whitecourt, Alberta.

Mildred Elaine (Fitzgerald) left home in 1941 and at present is living at 9315-98A Avenue, Fort St. John, B.C.

William Hugh moved to Victoria, B.C. permanently in 1950. His home is at #208, 310 St. James Street, Victoria. His sister, Thelma Jean (Harman) was also living in Victoria for a while and now makes her home at 8680 Lochside Road, Sidney, B.C.

Ralph Elmer moved to Victoria with his parents in 1950 and is still living there. His home is at 4152 Oakridge Crescent.

## Mr. and Mrs. William Pickard, 1906 Pioneers

Mr. William Pickard homesteaded NE35-T58-R27-W4 in July of 1906 in our area, which later in 1911 was two miles east of the Pickardville original site, the place which will always commemorate his name. The first Pickardville Post Office was opened in his home in 1907, and mail came from Edison at the time by a French fellow who was mail carrier. A little store was started in his home in 1908 and operated along with the post office.



Pearl Pickard.

which was on Edwin Townsend's farm. What became of this family? William Pickard lived until 1933, his wife until 1943 and daughter Pearl until 1950. Both mother and daughter died of cancer. Edwin is in central Alberta and Jack resides in Edmonton and at present is nearly eighty years old. We can be indebted to this gentleman for supplying us with this information and photos of the family.

## Gordon Pierce

When Gordon Pierce came to Westlock, April 20, 1920, people were still using sleighs because it was such a cold, late spring, with lots of snow. He and Hector Skinner had come to start a hardware business. They had been friends before the first World War and when they met on leave in England, agreed that if they both came through the war safely they would go into business together somewhere in Alberta. Here they were, ready to carry out their plans. Their first store was on the main street, then later they built their own store on First Street. At that time I had not met my future husband and I was teaching in Chipman.

I came to teach in Westlock in January, 1922. There were three teachers and three schools — Mr. Lynn, the principal, Mr. Aldridge (Happy), and myself. My school was on the main street and I had an enrolment of sixty children. They were bussed in from the west and the north of the village, which accounted for the heavy enrolment.



Mr. and Mrs. William Pickard and son. 1927.

The Pickard family left Pickardville while the Demers were still at the original site and Joe Demers took over the post office and operated it with their store business. William Pickard rented his homestead to a fellow by the name of Cowley before he left to go to work in Bashaw. The house burned down in 1916 while the Cowleys rented.

The Pickards returned to Pickardville after that but had no house to stay in. He bought a blacksmith shop at the original site and out of the lumber built another house on his homestead.

Mr. and Mrs. Pickard had three children — two sons, Edwin and Jack, and a daughter Pearl. While here they attended the first Pickardville (Tin) school





Ladies Curling Club — Westlock 1928. L to R, standing: Mrs. Colpits, Mrs. Amos, Mrs. Gardam, Mrs. McEwan, Mrs. J. E. Hunter, Mrs. George Miller, Mrs. Gross, ?, Mrs. Pierce, Mrs. Gilfillan, Miss Nealy. Kneeling: Mrs. Wheatley, ?, Mrs. Travers, ?, Mrs. Alan Neilson, Mrs. L. Campbell, Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Bentley.

I met Gordon shortly after my arrival and we spent many pleasant evenings skating in the arena — a covered rink near the railway track on the way to Hazel Bluff. The arena was used in the summer for the Agricultural Fair and other meetings.

We were married in June, 1923 and went to live in a bungalow Mr. Neilson had built for us. At first we used coal-oil lamps, but later that summer Mr. Wheatley put in a “Delco” plant, and some time later on diesel engines were installed. It was a luxury to have the electricity, even though the lights blinked at 1:45 a.m. and went off at 2 o’clock. If you weren’t home before then, you were in the dark.

The hardware business was sold in 1923 and by 1926-1927 Gordon had the Ford agency. He brought the first Model A Ford car to Westlock — a two-door sedan. Before that we had a Model T touring car but it had a self-starter. At that time there were no gravel roads, only dirt ones, so driving could be quite hazardous.

Our two children were born in Westlock; a girl and then a boy, and both went though school there. When Catherine graduated from high school, she went to the University of Alberta in Edmonton. When Barry graduated he went into the Army. Later he, too, went to the U of A.

We left Westlock permanently in 1943. My husband died in 1963. We had been living in Edmonton

for some time before that and I have continued to make my home here.

### Platt Family

William Platt was born January, 1884, at Grand Valley, Ontario. He sometimes was called Bill, but



Hazel and Maisie Platt.

was usually known as Will. He moved west in 1903 to Innisfree, Alberta. He worked a few years for the Great Northern Railway when they were putting a road through the Vermilion district, towards Edmonton. His job was operating a pile driver, used in the construction of bridges.

About 1905, he went farming, first on a homestead, then on a half-section farther north of Innisfree where he was able to lease a lot of pasture land. He farmed there until 1927.

He married in 1908. They had one son, Arnold, born in 1910, who now lives in southern Alberta. Will's wife, Arnold's mother, died when Arnold was eight months old.

In 1914 Will married Mary Agnes Allan, who was known as Daisy. She was born in June of 1894, at Monticello, Ontario, not far from Grand Valley. They had four children; George, Hazel, Jim and Ethel, all born at Innisfree.

In 1926 Will and Daisy, along with Lawrence and Pearl Loree, who farmed close by, decided to look the Westlock area over. Apparently they liked the district. That same fall Mr. Loree bought a quarter-section one mile north of Westlock. During the winter, Will bought a farm two miles north of Westlock; the west half of 17-60-26-W4. The land was level, good soil, very few stones but lots of bush and big trees. There were only ten acres cultivated.

Westlock in those days was still a village. However, there were stores, grain elevators, a post office, railroad station, and most important (as far as Will and Daisy were concerned) a good school. Soon after they moved here a school bus route went by the farm. The road from Westlock to the farm was just a trail and when it rained there were mud holes to try to get through or around. However, compared to the trails the pioneers and homesteaders travelled over, it would be considered a real good road. A few years later there were "cats" and graders working in the district. They improved the trails and built new

roads. It was many years before the road was gravelled.

In the early days the pioneers used oxen to break land, then later horses were used. However, when Will moved to Westlock, tractors had become quite common. As he had a McCormick-Deering 15-30 tractor, on steel wheels, that he had used for belt work at Innisfree, he decided to drive it to Westlock and use it for breaking.

In the spring of 1927, after the seeding was finished at Innisfree, Will and Arnold set out for Westlock. By travelling on back roads they were able to keep off any gravelled or hard-topped highways there might have been in those days. They had a model T Ford pick-up, and took turns, one driving the truck and one the tractor, which was hitched to a covered wagon loaded with hand tools, chains, saws, axes, some furniture and equipment they thought would be needed at the Westlock farm. That summer they bought a new breaking plow, hired some help, and were able to clear and break about 100 acres of land. The work was heavy. They worked long hours and the mosquitoes were very bad. The tractor then had to be driven back to Innisfree so that the crop there could be harvested.

In December, 1927, after holding an auction sale, the family moved to Westlock. They loaded a team of horses, two cows, a sleigh, a wagon, some furniture and personal effects in a box car. Will travelled in the box car to be sure the livestock were well looked after. Daisy and the children came on the passenger train to their new home.



Will and Daisy Platt.



Jim Platt, mother Daisy Platt, father William Platt.

In the fall of 1928, Will bought a new threshing machine. While getting it adjusted and ready to thresh, Will's sleeve became entangled in a belt causing a near fatal accident. He spent a long time in hospitals at Westlock and Edmonton and had many operations, but was never able to regain full use of



that arm. That fall, Stuart Beatt, a neighbour who farmed close by, ran the new thresher. Arnold looked after the tractor and had charge of the threshing crew.

In the years to follow there were some good times, and some not so good. Will belonged to the UFA and Daisy joined the Farm Women. They were also members of the Agricultural Society, and soon became known and got to know the people in the community. One year, at the Westlock Fair, Will and Daisy and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baker from Hazel Bluff, were awarded with Life Memberships in the Agricultural Society, in appreciation for the work they had done. Daisy was also a member of the Ladies Aid, Hospital Auxiliary, and was active with the Salvation Army for many years. Will was a member of nearly every co-operative organization that came along. If he thought it would help the farmers and improve their life-style, he was usually one of the first to join. He was a Wheat Pool member when it first started in Innisfree. At Westlock he joined the Pembina Livestock Co-op. Association, The Pembina Seed Cleaning Association and the Pibroch Mutual Telephone Company, to name a few.



Daisy and Bill Platt Family. L to R: Hazel, Ethel, George and Jim.

In 1953 Will and Daisy retired from the farm and moved to a house in Westlock. Daisy seemed to enjoy town life. On the farm she would have to drive the car or have someone drive her if she wanted to visit anyone. In town she could walk to Ladies Aid meetings or to the hospital to visit sick friends, and she had many friends who stopped to visit her. Will, it seemed, liked farm life the best. Even though he was seventy years old and had done his share of hard work, he would drive out to the farm nearly every day and help Jim, who had taken over the home farm, or George, who had a farm across the road, sometimes for a few hours and often for all day.



Dr. Hugh Horner, Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture, congratulating Dr. Arnold Platt, Executive Secretary of U.F.A., on being named to Alberta Hall of Fame.

Will and Daisy moved into the Pembina Lodge to spend the later years of their lives. About a year later, in 1973, Daisy took sick and passed away in December that same year. Will lived for two more years — most of that time he was a patient in the Auxiliary Hospital. He passed away in September, 1975.

Arnold left Westlock in the early 1930's to attend Olds, and later Vermilion, Schools of Agriculture, and then the University of Alberta. He was responsible for the development of "Rescue" wheat which was resistant to the Wheat Stem Sawfly. This new wheat largely eliminated the heavy losses that had been suffered by wheat growers in the open plains areas. From 1950 to 1959 he farmed in the Lethbridge area and during that time, served four years as President of the Farmers Union of Alberta. He has a lake (Platt Lake, Saskatchewan) named after him in 1950. He was also honored in 1972 by being named to the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame. His picture and scroll are on display in the Provincial Archives building in Edmonton. Arnold and his wife, Helen, are living on a ranch south-west of Lethbridge.

George married Maisie Donelly. They have three children. George served in the RCAF during World War II, and later farmed north of Westlock. They are now retired and live in Westlock.

Hazel married Harris Young. They have two children, are retired now and live in Lacombe.

Jim married Edna Wightman. They have a family of seven. Jim farmed for a number of years in the Westlock area, did a lot of truck driving, and now works for the M.D. They live in Westlock.

Ethel married August Larson. They have two children, are now retired and live on their farm east of Camrose.

## Memories

### Maisie (Donnelly) Platt

Memories of Hazel Bluff are many;  
No one would want to forget any.  
Our Sunday Service and Sunday School,  
Showers, weddings, funerals and christenings,  
Chicken suppers, bazaars, concerts and meetings.  
My C.G.I.T. days I'd like to relate  
With our leader Gladys Wilson  
Before she met her mate.  
As teacher and leader she was tops,  
Kept order better than modern day Cops.  
A new Model A Ford she drove with ease,  
Took us all to Lac La Nonne Camp,  
Through muskeg, mud and clay like grease.  
When at the lake she should pin up our orders  
That said "Girls stay within your borders."  
Ten days of fun and memories that last for years,  
Our names were many, to mention a few,  
Louie and Bertha, Hazel and Lil, Betty and Mary,  
Then Helen and Doreen, Marion and Jean,  
Rhod and Edna, June, Maisie and more.  
Then along came Sigurd that day in October  
And took her away to be Mrs. Olsen.

## The Pollards

### by Barbara Pollard

My Father, Alfred Adkins, his wife and three children, came to Canada from England in 1905. His father and mother, brothers and sisters came at the same time. They had a rough passage, plus a five day trip by train, in cars that were equipped with only hard wooden seats. But that is the Adkins story. I'm supposed to be writing about the Pollards.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pollard came west from Ontario in 1908. Mr. Pollard was born in 1856, and died in 1916. His wife was born in 1862 and passed away in 1941. Ernest Pollard, Tom's oldest son, had come west in 1906 and homesteaded the NE ¼-16-59-26-W4, and so had a house for them when they came. Tom took up a homestead 2 miles south of his son's place. The other children, Nellie, Walter, Jimmy and Mary Anne, came west with their parents. Bertha, an older daughter, had already married Archie Howie and they came to this area in 1911. Bertha died from the effects of a disastrous fire at Hazel Bluff, leaving five small children. Nellie married William Wood, father of Freeman Wood, and she was left a widow in 1927 with seven of a family.



L to R, Back row: Jimmy Pollard, Tom Pollard, Archie Howie holding Minnie, Ernie Pollard, Walter Pollard. Seated: Mrs. Archie Howie holding Ruth, Mary Ann Pollard, Archie Howie Jr., Mrs. Thomas Pollard, Nellie Pollard (Wood), 1911.



After her family grew up she married George Beaton and lived at Clyde.

Mary Anne married Clifford McIntosh and moved out to B.C. Jimmy married Barbara Adkins in 1920 and they had twelve children, nine boys and three girls. They are all married now, and Gilbert lives on the farm Jimmy bought from his brother Ernest in 1922 and moved onto in March of that year.

Jimmy had been born in Ontario in 1898 and he died in 1981, soon after he and Barbara celebrated their 60th. wedding anniversary. Jack joined the Air Force in 1941 and served overseas for three years. He was sent back to Canada in 1944 and stationed in Vancouver till the war ended in 1945. He later married and now lives in Coquitlam, B.C. Gwen and her husband are living at Smith, which is about sixty miles north of Westlock. Dick farms here in the Westlock District, on the NE¼-21-59-26-W4. Bill farms at Blueberry Mountain, up in the Peace River country, of Alberta. Len and Alf are both farming, the former at Smith and Alf in Westlock, Russ works in construction in Edmonton and lives on an 80-acre piece of land in St. Albert. Marion resides in Everett, Washington, U.S.A., while Lois lives in Edmonton, where she works with retarded children. George farms in partnership with Gilbert, and Art lives and works in Edmonton.

Jimmy served with the 138th Battalion, later being transferred to the 49th Battalion. He served for four years and returned home in the spring of 1919. He married a year later and farmed until ill health forced him to sell the farm to Gilbert in the 1950's. In November 1974 he had to enter the Nursing Home.

When we first came here there was just a one-room log house, and only 30 acres of cultivated land. All the surrounding area was bush, with no roads, just trails through the bush. Our nearest neighbour was a mile and a half away. The farmers worked out a good part of their taxes by building roads. There were no phones until long after the roads were made. There were plenty of hard times over the years, but we still think of them as "the good old days". We were young, then!

## The Life of Bill and Mary Poloway

William (or "Bill" as he was commonly known), was the youngest of three sons of Anthony Poloway. He was born in 1889 in the village of Probusna, county of Husiatyn in the Ukraine, at that time occupied by Poland. When his older brother returned to the U.S.A. for the second time in 1907, Bill, then in his teens, joined him, as employment and especially progress and prosperity appeared extremely dim in the homeland.

Contrary to the Ukraine, jobs in the U.S.A. were



Bill and Mary Poloway.

plentiful, and shortly after disembarking from the ship "Dory" in New York, he found himself working at a shipyard in Baltimore, Maryland. After a couple of years at this job, Bill was involved in a serious accident when the scaffolding collapsed, killing several men, but fortunately for Bill, he escaped with but minor injuries. Realising the hazard of this job, he left the shipyards and joined his brothers as a coalminer in West Virginia.

His older brother, Kornelius, heard of job opportunities and homesteads in Western Canada, so leaving Bill in Pennsylvania, where he was then employed as a coal miner, he took the fastest train available to Calgary. After he had procured a quarter section of land in the Bellevue area, he urged Bill to join him. Bill did not hesitate a moment.

Homesteads were available, but life on a homestead could be very lonely indeed, so while working in a coal mine in Drumheller he found time to do some courting, and on February 6, 1915, Bill and Mary were joined in holy matrimony in Edmonton. Now it was time to look for a homestead, so he and his wife Mary surveyed the available lands, and three miles distant from his brothers, the newly wedded couple purchased the NW¼-36-54-9-W4, a rolling quarter, covered with heavy forest. They purchased a big team of white horses, a wagon and walking plow and settled on this land. It did not take long to erect a log house and a barn for their horses. Little did they realize that although the huge trees would provide logs for their buildings and fuel for their stove, it also meant not days, but years, of hard back-breaking work to clear the land for the crops. However, the thought of being free and owning their own tract of land was worth all the effort.

The young couple realized that they could not eke out a living from farming, so every winter Bill would



L to R: Kornelius Poloway, Walter Gulka, Henry Kostiniuk, Tom Poloway, Bill Poloway, Walter T. Poloway.

return to work in the coal mines in Drumheller while his wife looked after not only a budding family, but the livestock as well. Walter was born in 1917 and almost every three years, in clockwork fashion, along came John, Carl, Anne and Rose.

By 1928 Bill and Mary had cleared quite a large number of acres and having acquired more horses and cattle, and with the good crops and better prices for their grain, conditions looked promising indeed. In 1929 Bill was able to buy his first car, a Nash with thirty-four inch tires and a motor the size of a diesel locomotive! I vividly remember the many “flats” that Bill had, as the car was too heavy for the tires in those days. And so, with the “boom” came the “bust” in 1929; prices dropped and unemployment became rampant. Bill was not able to get employment, so just like all the neighbours, he rode out the depression of the “Dirty Thirties” on the homestead.

During the second World War, Walter left home to work in the gold mines in B.C. and Alaska, and since John was now old enough to look after the livestock in the winter, Bill returned to the coal mines in Drumheller. There he spent many winters helping Canada’s cause.

Shortly after the war, Walter, along with his young bride, left Lac Bellevue to farm in the Pickardville-Vimy area. A year later, Bill sold his land, his livestock and equipment and joined Walter at his present place of residence. In 1950 he purchased a quarter section of land adjacent to Walter and in 1952 built himself a home in which he resided until his death in 1962.

It may be said that Bill was a real entrepreneur, for during his lifetime he tried to succeed in many endeavours. At heart he was a farmer, but in 1936 he opened up his own coal mine in Lac Bellevue, calling it the Spring Creek Coal Mine. Unfortunately, after a

while the mine produced more water than coal and all efforts to save it failed, so he gave it up as a lost cause.

Bill’s expertise in beekeeping was beyond reproach. He kept a few hives at Lac Bellevue and when he moved to Pickardville, his son Walter did all the field work, so that he could devote more time to the bees. Bill enjoyed his work very much for in the winter he would construct equipment for the bees and in the summer look after them. Shortly before his death, he had increased his beekeeping business to 40 hives, and this venture not only provided him with much enjoyment, but it also was a profitable enterprise.

When Bill’s health began to deteriorate, he sold his livestock, but still looked after the bees. Unfortunately, after a lengthy illness, Bill passed away on December 22, 1962. Mary, his widow, moved to Edmonton where she lived with her son John for a while before moving into her own home. She enjoyed many years with her good neighbors, and always enjoyed visits from her children and grandchildren. Her health gradually deteriorated, and she spent her last few years in the Nursing Home in Westlock and then Edmonton, finally going to rest on May 5, 1982.

Their five children all reside in Alberta. Walter, the oldest, is a farmer and fertilizer dealer in Pickardville. In 1981 he left the farm to live in Westlock, but still enjoys returning to the farm whenever he so desires. John lives in Edmonton and works for Poole Construction, a firm he has been employed with since 1950. Carl, who resides in Westlock, taught school for 36 years. He came to Westlock in 1950, shortly thereafter becoming a Vice-Principal, and then a Principal of the Westlock Junior High School since 1958. He retired from the teaching profession in 1979. Anne, also a school teacher, gave up the profession after she married Steve Halina, a farmer in the Ranfurly area. Rose, the youngest, makes her home in Edmonton where she, along with her husband Peter Makar, are both employed; Rose at the Edmonton Co-op Bakery and Peter at Canada Packers.

And so, even though life was very trying at times, this couple lived a happy and rewarding life. This is evidenced by the many close acquaintances that they made at Lac Bellevue and Pickardville. Fond memories linger in the hearts of their children, grandchildren and friends.

### Carl and Helen Poloway

The youngest son of three boys and two girls in the Wm. Poloway family, Carl was born on March 14, 1923 in the St. Paul area. Residing on a farm 15



miles south of St. Paul in the Lake Bellevue district, Carl attended Henley School where he completed his first eight years of education. Classes of 48 students, grades 1 to 8 were common in those days in that area. Since grade 9 was not offered at this school, he walked or bicycled his way to Lac Canard School, a distance of 4½ miles, to complete his Junior High education. Living on the farm meant involvement in farm chores, milking cows, brushing and root picking which added to his experience, development and perseverance.



Carl and Helen Poloway on their wedding day, June 30, 1948.

His father and brothers insisted that Carl continue his education; so he boarded the first year with the Berezanski family and the next two batched with Walter Makowecki and the two Halina boys where he received his education at the Myrnam High School. Yes it seemed possible in those days for four boys to stay together, cook their meals and do three hours of homework every night.

When the grade 12 examinations were written, an additional three hour Departmental examination was given. On the basis of the results of this examination, the government would select 200 students, pay their tuition if they agreed to attend Normal School for six

weeks and then go out to teach school. Carl received his call, so in November he enrolled in the Normal School in Edmonton for the six week stint.

Thus on Feb. 1, 1944 Carl found himself in a one room school 13 miles NE of St Paul at Bentley Lake with a class of 26 pupils grades 1 to 8. His salary for the year was \$1,000 plus an additional \$5.00 for janitor services. His gross cheque for the month amounted to \$83.35. From that the following were deducted: A.T.A. fees \$.70, Pension Fund \$2.50, Income tax \$11.00, Teacherage rent \$4.50, Supplies \$.26, leaving a net of \$69.39.

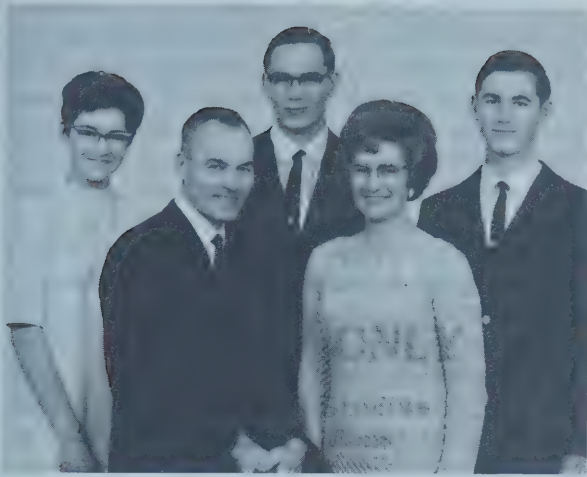
July, 1944 saw Carl enter the military services and when he arrived in Calgary he was assigned to the officers quarters for three months. He was transferred to Victoria, B.C. for the next 7 months and in May, 1945, the war drawing quickly to a close, he was honorably discharged.

The following three years Carl found himself teaching at Many Lakes School grades 1-9, with a class size ranging from 25 to 30. This school was located 5 miles south of St. Paul. In the spring of 1947 he purchased his first car, a brand new Champion Studebaker. It was not until June that he was able to drive his car up to the school where he taught. Bush trails were not meant for a car. In September of the same year he was offered and accepted a position as a grade 6-8 teacher in Heinsburg.

While teaching at Heinsburg, Carl met his wife Helen Kuziw. A mystery still remains — did Helen become more enamored with the young teacher or the new car; or was Carl enticed and succumbed to Mrs. Kuziw's good cooking and hospitality; or did cupid play an important role. It may have been a combination of all for Carl and Helen were married at Heinsburg on June 30, 1948.

Helen was born in Heinsburg and attended the Primula, Elk Point and Heinsburg Schools. She resided as a young girl with her parents on the farm south of Heinsburg and she vividly recollects the very cold winter of 1942. Her father was employed in the construction of the Alaska Highway, so Helen and her mother tended to the numerous farm chores in 30 to 60 below zero weather. In 1946 the family moved to Heinsburg as Helen's father became employed at the Lindberg Salt plant, still in operation under the name of Windsor Salt.

An experience of life on the prairies and better salaries, saw Carl and Helen spend their first two years of their married life in Empress where Carl taught grades 7 and 8. The community spirit and togetherness was something to behold and so both became actively involved in the community activities. Both talk fervently of the two happy years spent in the south.



Carl Poloway family. Carol, Carl Sr., Randy, Helen and Carl Jr.

Hospitality in Empress was beyond reproach; but the parkland which both Carl and Helen enjoyed during their childhood years beckoned them north. So Carl applied for a position in the Westlock School Division and was accepted as Principal of the Pibroch two-roomed school. When Supt. Kunelius met him in Edmonton, he offered him a grade 9 position in Westlock and Carl, who always wanted to teach grade 9, jumped at the opportunity. 1950, his first year at Westlock proved very successful, as there wasn't a single failure and consequently Carl remained as a teacher and administrator of the Junior High School in Westlock until his retirement in 1979.

In 1953, Carl was appointed Vice-Principal of the Westlock School. Because of the rapid growth of Westlock and likewise because of centralization, the school population increased very rapidly. So in the late fifties Carl was appointed Assistant Principal of the Westlock Junior High and Mr. Nixon the Assistant Principal of the Elementary. Thereafter Mr. Nixon was designated Principal of the Westlock Elementary and Carl as Principal of the Westlock Junior High.

In retrospect the six week Normal School stint proved more of a liability than an asset, for it meant countless years of summer school sessions before Carl received his B. Ed. degree in 1958. Thereafter he took additional courses until he graduated with a diploma in School Administration. For two years, 1963-65 Carl served on the Provincial Curriculum Board where he assisted in the development of curriculum for the schools. He also served on the Examination Board where he had the task of developing examinations for grade 9.

Carl and Helen have a family of three children. Randy, the eldest, was born in Empress on May 3, 1950 and is presently teaching high school in Two

Hills. He is married and his wife, Linda is employed as a pharmacist in the hospital in the same town. They have two children, Leyton, aged 6 and Kelsey, aged 3.

Carl, the middle button, was born in Westlock on June 3, 1953. He completed his education in Westlock and attended the U. of A. for four years. He is presently working as an electrician in Edmonton.

Carol, the youngest, was born in Westlock on January 3, 1956, is married to Ed Heather and they are residing in Westlock. Carol is working for an Insurance Agency and Ed is employed in sheet metal and air condition mechanics. They have one son, Logan, aged 6.

Since Carl's retirement, he has been actively involved in the fertilizer business located on the farm, and he also doesn't mind getting behind the wheel of the tractor to do some field work. Carl and Helen now travel extensively spending the first winter in South-Western U.S.A., the next winter in Mexico, touring that country for five weeks, the third winter in Florida, and their last winter in California and Arizona. This past summer they flew to Rumania, touring that country as well as Greece and Bulgaria. They enjoy living a leisurely retired life in Westlock, but are anxiously looking forward to getting into their motor home for another winter in the South.

## Poloway Family

Walter Poloway was born in Lac Bellevue, Alberta on June 2, 1917. He helped his father on the home



Walter and Pauline Poloway wedding, Jan. 21, 1945.



farm until 1945. In the fall of 1944 Walter and his father came to visit an uncle in the Vimy area. They heard of a farmer selling out so they decided to go to this sale. Here they bought a tractor, combine, cultivator, harrows, two wagons and a grain auger for four thousand dollars. Then Walter also rented the three quarters of land. On January 21, 1945, Walter married Pauline Kostyniuk and March 21 a truck was loaded with two horses, a sleigh, one cow, twenty chickens, some food, an old sofa with a homemade mattress for furniture and our parents' blessings with us, we were sent on our way. The roads were heavy with snow and the 120 miles seemed a long way. We arrived in our new home late at night, cold and tired. The truck did well until we got to the country road. The road was drifted with snow so we could go no further. We had to unload so we got our sleigh loaded. The next day we brought the cow home. When the neighbours heard there were newcomers in the area they came and offered to help us with whatever they could. The first neighbours we met were the Sam Yeomans family. They were wonderful people and we went to them as we would to parents for help and advice. We stayed here one year and then moved to the present location 26-58-26 W of 4, which we rented and then bought two years later with a loan from the Farm Credit. The price was \$13,000.00 for two quarters. Here we had to live in a train car where we nearly froze in winter. Walter went to lumber camps in the winter to get some lumber for buildings. Transportation was horses, bike or tractor. We bought our first truck in 1948, a half ton. In 1950 we had enough lumber to build a house. We used coal for heating for many years. Later we got power and finally gas came and we got a furnace. We really appreciated this great luxury; no more coal.



Walter Poloway family 1982. Back, L to R: Delores, Wayne, Diana, Dick. Front: Pauline, Dean, Shelly, Walter.

In 1950 on February 3rd, Diana Marie was born. She attended school in Westlock and graduated in 1968. She married Richard (Dick) Forbes in 1970. She graduated from University in 1972. They have two children, Shelley Ann ten years old, and Dean Matteau who is five.

At present Diana is teaching school in Edmonton.

Wayne was born on June 28th, 1954. He graduated from Westlock High School, attended Vermilion College during the winter months and farmed with his father. He married Delores Bryk in 1979 and now has taken over the family farm.

In 1969 Walter started a fertilizer dealership right at the farm and with the help from his brother Carl this has become a full time project which has involved the help of all the family members.

We built a house in Westlock three years ago and are planning to retire here.

## The Pombert History by Lucy Lefebvre

In the year 1875, on May 20, Laurent Pombert was born in Aylmer, Quebec. As a young man he worked long hours and hard days, in summer as a planer and winter as a lumberjack. At the age of 19 he married and had two children. He lost his wife and child at the birth of their third child. In September 1899 remarried to Angelina Meunier, a widow with one son, Fred. They had a daughter Gloria who passed away at the age of 10 months. 19 months later Rosario came into the world on February 9, 1908. September 7, 1909 Lorenzo was born, and Lucienne in February 25, 1911. One boy Ergel died at the age of 6 years.



Laurent Pombert family. Laurent, Angelina and Lucienne with 1925 Starr car.

April 18, 1918 the family packed all their belongings and travelled 4 days and 4 nights by train to come to the great west that everyone was talking about. There to meet us in Edmonton was Ferdinand

Beauchamp with a horse and democrat, (a wagon with two seats). They later returned with a wagon to get our belongings and furniture. We lived at the Beauchamps for 3 months when we moved to 2 different houses before we moved on to our own homestead. Our father had built a square log home. This home was a large one room with all the beds at one end. Each bed was cordoned off by a curtain, which meant we had to behave and go directly to sleep. The floor was rough wood upon which no one ran about barefooted for fear of a sliver or two. The means of heat and cooking were two stoves situated centrally in the room. The furniture brought from Quebec was all that donned our humble home.

My two brothers fancied to play mean tricks on me, the only girl. I remember one Christmas morning, as was the custom with our family, to have our socks filled with candy, apples and oranges. I was all excited to see what I received when I discovered something extra in the bottom of my sock. All anxious I quickly stuck my hand down to the bottom and pulled out something that was all wrapped in a paper. It was soft and furry — A Mouse!!! I certainly was not impressed and I don't believe Mom and Dad ever did discover my gift.



L to R: Lucienne (Lefebvre) Pombert, Lorenzo Pombert, Rosario Pombert and Ergel Pombert.

Lorenzo and Rosario liked nothing better than to harass me about my dolls. I remember one time Lorenzo took my baby doll named Rene and while doing a dance with him, Rene fell onto one of my fancy dolls laying in the carriage and broke its head. Lorenzo then hung Rene with a small cord and announced that he had punished the doll Rene for killing the other doll.

Our homestead was located 2½ miles east and 5 miles south of Westlock. We were fortunate to have good neighbors around such as Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dufraine, Belle and Ralph Drayton, Mr. and Mrs. Kramps, Mr. and Mrs. Thethewin, Mr and Mrs.

Elois Petrin and Cousin Harvey Beauchamp. Many pleasant hours were spent visiting, partying and helping each other.

As a child I remember having to work very hard; we milked eight to nine cows, separated milk, looked after chickens and rode horseback to bring the cattle in from pasture. Spring and fall was extra hard as discing was done with four horses and I sat on a small seat on the back. Harrowing was worse as there I certainly got my exercise walking behind the harrows and horses. At harvest we stooked our crops and fed from 12-13 men all fall. They were fed a large breakfast, dinner and supper as well as 2 lunches. They may have complained about the pay but never about the food.

One year after arriving in Alberta in 1919, the three of us started school at Edison. Our teacher for about 1½ years was Mr. Tracey. We then went to Clover Valley School for the remainder of our schooling. Some of our teachers were Mr. Lablanc, Miss Lablanc, Miss Leah, and Mr. Tracey. We had many good friends during that period some of whom I still run into occasionally, Baldwins, Dufresnes, George and Doris Hoke, George and Leonard Sterling. School in those days was very simple and we learned the basic three R's. Rosario finished Grade 6, Lorenzo Grade 7 and I finished Grade 5. After school I worked at home with my parents. On November 18, 1930 Rosario married Helen Lavoie and farmed for a short time. While on the farm they had 6 children; Henry, Mary, Leo, Ernie, Rhea, and Albert, and later born in Edmonton, Noella. Rosario moved to Edmonton in 1947 to work with Lorenzo who had moved there previously and set up a saw sharpening business. Rosario lived there until his death October 26, 1979 at the age of 71. All the children still live in Edmonton.

Lorenzo also worked on the farm and during his stay there married Leontine Lavoie November 7, 1933. They had 7 children; first child Antoinette died at the age of 2½ years, Edgar, Delia, Morris, Clair, Aurel and Dennis and all now live in the city. Lorenzo moved to Edmonton in 1940 and still lives there.

I lived on the farm with my parents until 1933 when we moved to Westlock after selling our farm to Semeniuk's of Clyde. Dad bought a house approximately 1½ blocks east of the Bank of Montreal. It was one of the first homes built in Westlock and still stands today. I worked at the cafe for about one year. This cafe was situated where McKenzie IDA Drug now stands. I then went to work for Lutske's General Store for 2 years. This building still stands in Westlock, much run down; just north of Guardian Drug on



Main Street. On November 19, 1947 I married Al-demard Lefebvre.

Life during my childhood and even adulthood brought with it many hardships and I often wonder how today we would have been able to cope with these. I am very thankful though for what I have and for the pleasures I have had throughout my life.

### **Richard C. Ponting** **written by Elspeth Ponting**

Dick Ponting came to Canada from Andover, England in 1924 after having taken a six week course on "farming". He came out under a Salvation Army Scheme whereby he worked on a farm in Ontario for two years. He came west on one of the Harvester Excursion trains. He came to Westlock in 1930 as second man for the Beaver Lumber Company under the late W. J. McCullough.

In 1933, Dick went to work for Pembina U.F.A. Co-op. He was to work for Pembina U.F.A. Co-op. for the next forty years. His last position was as General Manager and company secretary.

The world of business was not the only area of interest. He spent much of his free time working on behalf of the community. This was done in two ways. The first as a member of church and service groups. These groups included the United Church, Masons and the Rotary Club, of which he was the founding President. The second way was through public government. Dick was a member of the Westlock School Board from 1952 to 1971. He served as chairman of the Board for most of this period. He was the first Chairman of the Westlock Regional Recreation Board.

Dick was also very much a family man. He married the former Elspeth Allan, daughter of Reverend D. K. and Mrs. Allan, in 1938. They had two sons, Philip of Edmonton and Douglas of Okotoks.

Until his death in 1973, he continued with his volunteer work.

### **South East of Sixteen** **Cotswold School District**

Mr. Henry Poulson homesteaded the SE¼ 16-59-1-W5th in 1906. Born in Sweden, he spent a few years in the United States before coming to Edmonton, Alberta. There he worked with the sewer digging crews as well as working at improving his homestead. He was known as an enterprising farmer, and made a lot of money dealing in the stock market. He built a large log barn which still stands today, as straight as the day it was built.

The south-east of sixteen is now owned by Louis and Simone Paquette. After returning from World

War II, where he served as a pilot, Louis bought the farm from Henry Poulson. In 1947 he married Simone Comeau, and they lived in the Poulson house eleven years before building a new one.

Their farm operation is a three family farm; two of the boys, Robert and Martin farm with their father.

The family consists of Rhea (Mrs. Leslie Prop-erzi), Martin who is married to Wanda (Tucker), Doris (Mrs. Matt Meinczinger), Robert who married Paulette (Desranleau), Gilbert married to Lea (Roberts) and Denise who is working as an accountant for Fibreglass Canada.

### **Mike Prokop** **contributed by Marie Lindahl and Anne Hide**

Mike Prokop was born September 17, 1902, near Gdansk, Poland. He arrived in the Westlock area in May, 1928.

When he left Poland, he sailed on the S.S. "Pioneer" to London, where he spent three days before leaving for Montreal aboard a Cunard Liner. The crossing took seven days. Immigrant accommodation was in the ship's steerage where bunks were provided for them. He travelled by train to Edmonton.

A government Agent met the immigrants in Edmonton, with a big truck to transport them across the country. The Agent would stop along the way to see if farm hands were needed. Mr. Bob Stevens, who lived five miles south of the Zaczkowski corner from Highway 18, needed help so Mike was hired to assist him. Mr. Stevens, a grain farmer, owned a half section of land. The farm equipment was horse drawn. Most farmers kept a few cows and pigs. When Mr. Stevens' crop was harvested, Mike was unemployed, but soon was given work on the farm of Con Wist. At that time Mr. Wist was in partnership with Mr. Joe Wagner in the Westlock Dairy Business.

The method of farming has changed greatly since Mike arrived. At that time the farm equipment was drawn by as many as four horses. When harvest season arrived, threshing crews with at least five or six men, teams of horses and wagons came, ready to begin the operation. The farmer was charged by the bushel, and the price varied with the type of grain threshed. The highest price was charged for wheat. Thomas Lane had one threshing machine and crew; Con Wist and Jim Brockie operated a similar outfit.

Mike found Sundays lonely. In the evenings, homesick and unable to understand English, he would look across the vast expanse of land and see tiny lights of houses which seemed to be miles away. He longed for his homeland, where each Sunday friends and neighbours would gather for visiting and

good times. Over the years he taught himself to speak, read and write English.

For the local residents in the Westlock area, Saturday night was the time for the farming community to travel to town in buggies or democrats, to buy supplies. It was also the time to visit with friends and neighbours, in the stores and on the street corners.

After World War II, Mike bought a quarter section of land from Sid Astill. For some years he rented it to Bill Guest. John Elliott eventually bought the farm. After selling his farm, Mike worked for Bob Lane until 1964, when he purchased the Tommy Lane home at 10227-105 Street in Westlock.

For several years he worked as a gardener at various homes in Westlock. He retired in the autumn of 1982. In July, 1983, he sold his home and now resides in Pembina Lodge.

This well respected gentleman has many friends throughout this country.

**Romeo Provost**  
**by Lorenzo Provost**

Romeo was born in the Province of Quebec and came west in 1918, bringing his wife and two children, Agnes and Lorenzo, and his elderly parents. He settled on a farm in the Legal district, where their son Hector was born. The three children attended school in Legal. Their mother, Rose Anna (Nadeau) died in 1920 and is buried in Legal.

Romeo married Victoria Ringuette in 1928. He moved his family to Pickardville in 1930, where he had purchased a half section of land from Fred Moynes, the S½-21-58-26-W4.

From this family, twelve children were born: Firmin, Leon, Rose Anna, Jeanne, Rita, Denis, Claude, Therese, Yvonne, Pauline, Harvey and Eveline. Most of the children attended the Vermilion Springs School for grades 1 to 9. Some of their teachers were: Miss Acher, Miss Krull and Miss D. Watson. The youngest children attended Ste. Bernadette school in Pickardville. Mrs. Provost still resides on the farm with her son, Claude. Mr. Provost died in 1964.

Agnes, the oldest, a resided in Pickardville until her death on November 25, 1981.

Lorenzo purchased the Pioneer Store in Pickardville in 1949. This store is an old landmark, having been built in 1916 by Mr. Joe Demers. It is still standing. Lorenzo sold his business in 1976 and is now retired in the Dapp district.

Hector joined the R.C.A.F., was discharged in Vancouver, B.C., and is retired, after a career as a chartered Accountant and Customs Broker.

Firmin is now residing in Manning; Leon, Claude and Harvey are in Pickardville; Denis is in Drayton

Valley; Rose Anna lives in Vimy; Jeanne and Therese are both living in Edmonton; Rita resides in Barrhead; Yvonne is in Legal; Pauline makes her home in Grande Cache and Eveline is living in Westlock.

**J. T. Proudlove and Urias (Bob) Roberts**  
**Story**  
**by Evan Roberts**

Joe Proudlove was born November 29, 1862 in South Wales. He and his wife, Alice, emigrated to Canada in the latter part of the nineteenth century. They settled in the Manitoulin Island in Ontario where their three children were born: Con, Plenhydd and Emily.



Joe and Alice Proudlove.



Mr. J. T. Proudlove with son-in-law Bob Roberts and daughter Emily. Taken in 1932.



The Proudlove family moved west in 1913 and homesteaded near Westlock on the NW¼ 30-60-26-W4. Mr. Proudlove built on the bank of the Wascel Creek, no doubt reminding him of his home in Ontario. His son, Plenhydd, at this same time, homesteaded the SE¼ 30-60-26-W4.

Both sons, Con and Plenhydd, went to serve in the first World War. Plenhydd died of measles while in training; Con returned from the war but never came back to the farm.



Bob and Margaret Roberts.

Mrs. Alice Proudlove died March 17, 1920. After his wife's death, Joe Proudlove and his daughter Emily continued to farm together. They enjoyed a quiet life, close to their farm and neighbors. One outside interest centered around their church at Pibroch. Mr. Proudlove acted as Sunday School Superintendent and also taught the Bible class. Emily played the organ regularly and was active in the Ladies' Aid.

Urias (Bob) Roberts was born October 17, 1900 in New Brighton, Minera, near Wrexham, North Wales. He landed in Canada in March, 1926 and came directly to the Westlock district to work for William Betson, on what is now the Harry Zolmer farm. Bob met Emily (Amy) Proudlove at a Box Social in the new Prosperous School. After working



Emily and Evan Roberts, children of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Roberts.

for a time in southern Alberta, he returned to Westlock and married Emily in November, 1929. They lived and farmed with Emily's father.

Emily Roberts passed away November 3, 1930, shortly after the birth of their daughter Emily Gwendoline. With the help of kind neighbors like Mrs. E. G. Gamble, Mrs. J. E. Roddick and Mrs. M. Gillies, as well as others, Bob Roberts was able to cope with caring for his new family. About this time the "Empress of Australia" was crossing the Atlantic and aboard was Margaret Jonassen from Jutland, Denmark. Margaret was a registered nurse, but upon arriving in Canada, found it very difficult to find work in her profession. She did housework for a time and later nursed at Consort, Alberta. In 1931, after leaving Consort, she had decided to go back to Denmark. While visiting friends in Edmonton she noticed an advertisement in the newspaper requesting a housekeeper. Instead of going home to Denmark, Margaret answered this advertisement and came to the Westlock district to care for little Emily Roberts and keep house for Mr. Proudlove and his son-in-law.

On March 26, 1932, Bob Roberts and Margaret Jonassen were married and I, Evan, was born on August 4, 1934. Mother and Dad continued to live and farm with Mr. Proudlove, building a new house on the SE¼ 30-60-26-W4 which we moved into in 1945. This move out to the main road made travel more convenient; especially for Emily and I to attend school at Prosperous, and later Westlock High School.

Mr. Proudlove spent a good deal of his time writing poetry and reading and meditating on his Bible, especially in his later years. During this time, Mother's nursing experience was put to good use in caring for him, as he lived with us until his death, December 31, 1950 at the age of 87 years.

Dad and Mother spent a quiet life on the farm, travelling only occasionally to visit friends and relatives in North Wales and Denmark. Dad and I farmed together until his retirement. They lived on together in their own home until January, 1980, when they moved to the Pembina Lodge in Westlock. After a long illness, Mother passed away on June 8, 1981 at the age of 88 years. Dad still resides at the Lodge and enjoys living and visiting with his friends there.

## **The Phillip Proulx Family by Mrs. Rock Proulx**

Phillip Proulx and his wife Delia (Vincent) left their farm in St. Léonard County of Nicolette, Quebec in 1898. Along with their twelve children; Alphidor, Wilfrid, Emma, Angeline, Antonia, Napoleon, Regina, Albert, Phillip Arthur Jr., Romeo, Eva, and Eugene, they moved to Maine, New Hampshire, U.S.A. Here, they spent six years working in the factories. Missing the farm and because of the persuasive letters from their brother-in-law Serile Bourgeois of St. Albert describing available homesteads in Alberta, they decided to move west. They came by train in the summer of 1905 and spent the winter at Serile's residence in St. Albert. In early 1906, they claimed the homestead NE-8-58-25-W4 on the border line of the M.D. of Westlock, along what was to become Highway #2. They cleared the homestead of solid brush and built a large loghouse and barn: the beginning of their family farm. Some of their children went to Springfield school.

Because of the location to the main road, many travellers were stopping by and soon it became well known as "Proulx's Corner". Freighters from Edmonton en route to the north and vice versa would stop for the night, have a hot meal and a warm place to sleep for themselves and their horses. A telephone was installed for the traders convenience and repairs could be made to harnesses and horseshoes.

As the sons grew older they took up brush clearing and surveying jobs throughout the area, to help supplement the farm income and support the large family. Almost all the sons took up homesteads of their own; all of which involved much hard work as they were completely covered with trees, but only a few stayed. One of the first to start was Wilfrid Proulx and his wife Olivine (Létourneau) who bought SE-8-58-25-W4. This they farmed for many years, then moved to Calgary and their daughter Léa Proulx (Mrs. Léon Huot) of Vimy took over the quarter and is still farming it.

Across the border of M.D. of Westlock and across the highway #2 from his brother Wilfrid, Romeo Proulx and his wife Anna (Létourneau) bought a quarter from C.P.R. They have acquired

other quarters beyond the line also. Later years it was passed to his son Eloi Proulx. This farm is presently being operated by Eloi's wife Celine (Bourassa) and her son Ronald Proulx.

Phillip Art Jr. another brother, bought a quarter section from the C.P.R. across the highway #2, from Proulx's Corner in 1926. Along with his wife Louise (Baloche) and children Rock and Germaine. In 1949 Phillip Proulx bought the original homestead NE-8-58-25-W4, the Proulx Corner. They farmed for many years with the help of their son Rock. In the early 1950's Phillip's son Rock Proulx and his wife Jeannette (Lessard) and children Arthur and Yvonne started to farm, and then bought the NE-12-58-26-W4. Later on Rock bought the SE-8-58-25-W4, and has also acquired other quarters in the Sturgeon district. Rock's son Arthur Proulx and his wife Cathy (Montpetit) has been farming with his dad and bought the former Proulx Corner, the NE-8-58-25-W4 from his grandmother Louise Proulx. So the family farm has been kept going within the family till now.

## **Wilfrid Proulx (1884-1961) Olive Proulx (1895-1963)**

**by Lea Huot**

In 1929, Wilfrid Proulx purchased one-half section of land one mile east of Pibroch on Highway 44. He then commenced building a two bedroom house, a cow barn, a horse barn, a chicken coop, a milk-house, an ice house and a blacksmith shop.



Wilfred and Olive Proulx.



In 1930, Wilfrid, his wife Olive and their four children, Edward, the twins Lea and Laura, and Tom, moved from Legal to their new Pibroch home. The move was made in April, with horses and the weather was very cold. With the help of his two sons, Edward and Tom, and a few hired hands, Wilfrid cleared two hundred acres of land by hand.

Then in 1931 the family started a dairy. They delivered milk and cream in Pibroch with a Bennett wagon that Wilfred had built. In the summer they would also have a big garden, the produce from which they would market in Pibroch and Westlock. Haying, picking roots and cutting grain and stooking were also done apart from the daily chores of milking fourteen cows, feeding the hogs, horses and chickens. Then when winter came they would cut down trees some of which were taken to Mr. Roddick to be made into lumber, and the rest was used for firewood which was also marketed in Pibroch and Westlock.



Skating rink in Pibroch. Tommy, Edward, Laura and Lea Proulx.

Wilfrid, his wife Olive and their four children lived on the Pibroch farm for four years. During this time the children attended Pibroch East School. The family also made many good friends during this short time. They then moved back to Legal on the original farm which Wilfrid had purchased in 1912. Later in 1936 another daughter, Annette, was born.

At the present time Edward is now residing in Calgary, Lea (Huot) in the Vimy district, Laura (Revard), in Legal, Tom in Invermere, B.C., and Annette (Belsher) in Williams Lake, B.C.

### The Racine Family

The Racine family came to Pickardville in July, 1906. They set up a home for their family of eight, six girls and two boys, one mile north and four miles west of the hamlet of Pickardville; the old homestead is now owned by Roger Deshoux.

Michel Racine was a very industrious person. He built a big log shack that was used for three years but



Two grain tanks on the Racine farm.

by 1910 he had built a big house and framed a barn 48' x 36' both still standing to this day and both still in use. In 1911 he was responsible for getting the first school in the district — Racine School.

Having come from Ontario with two cows, three horses and some farm machinery, Michel spent most of his winters with his threshing machine and treadmill threshing for the settlers in the district. Sometimes they only had one small stack. But this was not to last, for by June 1917, Michel was killed in a dynamite explosion. The farm was taken over by our stepfather, Joseph Lebel, and by 1935 had been increased to one section. Poor health caused him to give up and the farm was then taken over by Arthur Racine, son of Michel.



Transplanting a tree on the Michel Racine farm, 1938.

As times were changing, the first rubber-tired tractor was bought ("What a fool was he," according to some people); the first fertilizer in the district was tried by Arthur Racine and turned out to be a great success.

In 1950, the farm was bought by Emanuel Racine, the son of Arthur, and has since become the property of Roger Deshoux.

## **H. P. and Louisa Raymont by E. (Raymont) Hilliard**

Percy Raymont, Sr., came to Rossington in 1921 from Devon, England. He had bought the G. Kane homestead from W. Tennant through the Soldier Settlement Board, and was followed in 1922 by Louisa Hawke from Cornwall, England. They were married immediately in Edmonton and went directly to the small log house at Rossington. They raised a family of eight children Betty, Billy, Ethel, Crystal, Celia, Percy, Clara, Marina (deceased at eight months) and Tentee.

They sold their farm to their son-in-law Roy Hilliard, in 1959 and purchased a small home on 104th Street and 102nd Ave. in Westlock. They built on to this small home and were quite comfortable with all the modern niceties of life. Tentee was of school age and continued her high schooling in Westlock.

Percy got a job in Pete Braglin's cement culvert plant nearby where he worked for the next two years. The land across the street was not developed for homes, but was the bee-keeping and honey extracting plant of Clyde Gault. This land now contains some lovely homes and the Pembina Lodge for Senior Citizens.

About 1961, Percy began doing volunteer work in the Westlock Public Library, then some part time work and eventually he worked full time on specific days. Tentee helped out when the library was open at certain times for students. When Tentee left home, granddaughters Marina and Harriet Hilliard volunteered for those student hours. Percy took a librarian's course and became Westlock's librarian for many years until the new Town Office and Library was built, at which time he retired but remained their best customer.

Louisa passed away in 1966, and Percy continued living in his home until 1976, and passed away in 1977. Percy and Louisa were both members of St. Phillip's Anglican Church, Westlock.

## **Vernon and Mary Rector**

Vernon, son of Walter and Minnie Rector, was born in 1920 and lived with his family in Edmonton



Mary (Measures) Rector.

and Riviere Qui Barre. When he was twelve years old the family moved to a farm southwest of Pickardville, on the NW¼-14-58-27-W4. He attended Trails End School for the remainder of his school years.

Not long after World War II broke out he joined the RCAF. Vernon and Mary Measures were married, and made their home in Pickardville. They had a family of two: Deanna and Kenneth. Vernon lost his life overseas in July, 1943.

Mary, a daughter of Tom and Elsie Measures, was born on their Arvilla homestead in 1920. Mary was widowed in her early twenties so had the responsibility of raising her family alone. She spent some time helping her parents in the post-office. Later she worked in the Pickardville Pioneer Store for many years. Mary was well known throughout the community.

She was a happy, vivacious person who was much loved by all who knew her. She had a humorous and understanding personality and was very sensitive to others feelings.

She was right in her element on the platform, both as an actress or as master of ceremonies. Her





Mary (Measures) Rector.

poetic talents were shared by countless people who enjoyed her many contributions.

She attended the United Church and was an ardent worker in the United Church Women's Organization.

Mary loved people and particularly enjoyed her two lovely children and their families.



Mary Rector with grandchildren, Baby Mark and Brent, 2½ years.

### **The Walter Rector Family by their daughter Mae Turner of Glendora, California**

My Dad, Walter Rector, was born in North Bend, Nebraska, U.S.A. and came to Alberta when he was

15 years of age. Mother, Mary (Minnie) Kinsella was born in North Dakota and while still a young girl moved with her family to Riviere Que Barre, Alberta.

September 25, 1909 mother and dad were married in Riviere Que Barre. There was a building boom in Edmonton at that time so made their home there where dad was employed as a carpenter. Then came the crash and the bottom fell out of real estate so they returned to Riviere Que Barre. Jobs were hard to find so they tried farming at Namao for a time and then moved to Cardiff where Dad was employed as tippie man at the Alberta Coal Mine. When the Cardiff mine closed the folks moved back to Edmonton and Dad took up the plastering trade.



Minnie (Kinsella) and Walter Rector.

They were blessed with 8 children but much to their sorrow death claimed five of them in infancy.

In 1932 Dad decided to try his hand at farming once again and bought the Moulette farm situated S.W. of Pickardville, N.W. 14 Township 58 Range 27 west of the 4th. The farm had been homesteaded by the Metcalfe family who had sold to Mr. and Mrs. Moulette. Mr. Carl Hanson, Mrs. Moulette's brother lived on the adjoining farm and proved to be a very good friend all the years we lived there.

At the time of our move my brother Vernon was 12, I was 9 and sister Grace 7 years of age.

Being used to city lights you can imagine how dark and gloomy the farm appeared when we arrived there after dark, but thanks to Carl a welcoming lamp was shining in the window for us. To add to our misery it rained and the old kitchen roof leaked and how I wished we were back in our big comfy house in Edmonton. What my mother had to put up with at first!!!!!! Later Dad added a bright new kitchen and it wasn't long before we adjusted to life on the farm. Dad was happy raising cows, pigs and horses and growing crops of wheat, oats and barley. We attended Trails End School.

Our favorite animal was our pony Barney who was not only cute but also smart and soon learned to open the oat box with his nose. He never objected to having 3 or 4 of us upon his back at one time. He also had the habit of running from the spring to the barn and the rider had to hang on for dear life or go flying when he cleared the three pole fence. One of my fondest memories of the farm is of that natural spring about a half mile from our house where we skated in winter and enjoyed many cool moments during the hot days of summer.

Vernon married Mary Measures and they had two children, Deanna and Kenneth. Ken and his sons are the only ones left to carry on the family name. Vernon joined the R.C.A.F. and was killed in July, 1943 — a terrible blow to the family.

I worked for a time for Oscar Patry who was Secretary-Treasurer for the Municipal district of Hazelwood in Pickardville.

Dad sold the farm in 1941 and we moved to Morinville where I again worked for Oscar Patry as the M.D. had been moved from Pickardville to Morinville. Dad was Weed Inspector for the Government.

Mother had two sisters in Los Angeles, California and we decided to move there. We left Edmonton by train during a blizzard in December, 1943 and arrived in the Los Angeles a week later in 85 degrees sunshine. For some years Dad worked as a plasterer and then for a cabinet company, after moving to Covina, California to be near me and my husband Dean Truner who we discovered was born in Nebraska not far from where Dad was born.

Dad died in Covina August 1960 at the age of 72 years. As both Grace who was now Mrs. Tommy McGrath and I and our families were living in Glendora mother also moved here from Covina where she remained until her death in March 1970, aged 80 years. Our dear parents were a shining example of courage in the face of sickness and sorrows for both Grace and I. Dad with his great sense of humor helped us over many a rough spot.

## Manford Reed

In 1907, Manford Reed left the family home to be an apprentice blacksmith in Athens, Ontario. The work was heavy; the ten hour days seemed long to a seventeen year old lad. The student would receive \$300.00, plus room and board at the hotel, for a three year work experience. For the first year \$75.00, second year \$100.00 and the third year \$125.00. Sunday evening services were attended at the Baptist Church, a pattern for his way of life that would continue on for years.

In 1911, he went to the harvest fields of Wetaskiwin, Alberta. The following two years he worked in blacksmith shops in Edmonton. Manford owned blacksmith equipment, and leased a building for five years to operate his own shop at 95th Street and 103rd A, Avenue, where the Bissell Centre now stands. An adjacent lot with a cottage was rented. The blacksmith took a wife, Macy Reid (same name, different spelling) on December 22nd, 1915. She had taken a millinery course and was an excellent seamstress and cook. Some sixty years later she was still making award winning pies.

In 1916, a baby son, James, was born.

The era of freight delivery by truck was becoming a reality in Edmonton. That would close out the majority of the horse shoeing business by 1920.

The Reeds moved to Hazel Bluff in 1918 and took over the NE¼-2-60-1-W5, the land formerly homesteaded by Mr. Jim Seers. The Reeds purchased the land from Mrs. Reed's grandparents, William and Martha Reid. A team of horses, a harness, had been purchased in Edmonton for \$200.00, and also one horse for \$90.00 from the Graham and Reid Furniture Store (not related). A new breaking plow, new wagon and new Cockshutt disc were purchased at Mr. Montpellier's Blacksmith Shop in Westlock, payment cash. Mr. Montpellier had built the shop in 1916 and had lived in the upstairs part of the building.

The first crop on the farm was fifteen acres of oats that required a binder to cut it. A new Frost & Wood eight foot binder was purchased. It had been manufactured at the Machine Shop in Smith Falls, Ontario, where Manford had worked in 1910. The new binder also cut thirty-five acres of grain for Mr. Abe Cole, fifty acres for Mr. Charles Kinsella, thirty acres for Mr. Wm. Styshaski, a grand total of one hundred and thirty acres. The binder required four horses to pull it, so Manford put on one team and an extra team was provided by the farmer having the work done. Manford charged a dollar an acre for cutting. That fall, and the fall of 1919, Manford worked in Mr. Montpellier's shop, shoeing horses that would be going to work in logging camps or hauling grain to the Westlock grain elevators. The winter work project was crushing grain or sawing



logs into blocks for firewood. A six h.p. stationary engine was used, hauled from farm to farm by a team of horses.

In January of 1919, Manford built two heavy sets of sleighs to be used with two teams and two drivers to haul lumber from the saw mill at Manola to Mr. Fred Patterson's lumber yard in Westlock.

Manford's good blacksmith equipment had been sitting under a big tree in the middle of the farm yard until a large hip-roofed shop was built on the farm in 1920. The following year a son, Kenneth, was born.

In 1925 the telephone became a reality when Manford built a line three-quarters of a mile north of the baseline, to the Wm. Brooks farm to connect the rural telephone line to the Westlock Central. That was the same year that Manford rented Mr. Montpellier's shop for a ten year period. A horse and buggy was driven seven miles to work, six days a week, to the blacksmith shop. 1926 was an especially busy year at the shop so Mr. Lee Brandford was hired and the work went on from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The dinner break was taken at the Chinese Cafe by the railroad tracks; a large helping of good food, pie and tea all included for thirty-five cents. The men never knew how such good food could be served to the public at such a reasonable rate. A Christmas treat to a good customer was a gaily wrapped assortment of candied fruit from China packed in small wooden-box type packages.

In 1927-1928, the farm was rented to William and Maggie Bell, the farm machinery was sold and the Reeds, with new daughter, Shirley, moved into Westlock. A used 1923 model T Ford car was purchased for Three Hundred Dollars to speed up the travelling.

All minor cuts or badly bruised fingers at the blacksmith shop were given first aid at Mr. Tice's Drug Store (presently the Medicine Bottle). The patient walked about one block east to the Drug Store and could be seated on a tall stool at the time of medical emergencies. On occasion Manford was known to pass out, he and the tall stool parting company. Little son, James, was accidentally knocked down by a playful colt, which resulted in his getting a broken leg. It was set, and a cast applied, by a doctor, while the little fellow was held down by two men. Today, our medical services in Westlock should be greatly appreciated.

The move back to the farm for the Reeds also meant a family moving in to live in a small building in the same yard. Lawrence and Amy Pope, plus two young daughters, moved in so that Lawrence could carry out the field work projects. Manford busily commuted back and forth from the farm to the shop in Westlock. Many neighbours were known to ask that supplies be purchased in the village, as well as

being delivered by Manford on his way home. In the middle of the "Depression Years", (November, 1934) Manford left the shop to return to the farm full time. There was work to be done but the working people couldn't make money to pay for services rendered; that seemed to apply to most of the working population.

Westlock had an Odd Fellows Lodge that met in the hall on the second storey of the McTavish Store. Mr. Reed had been an active member in Edmonton. Mrs. Reed had been associated with the ladies' group, the Rebeccas, but due to the depression, the lodge was closed. There was a great deal of volunteer work to be done in the Farm Group, Hazel Bluff Church and Cemetery, and the Rural Mutual Telephone Company. Mr. Reed, an original signer of the Alberta Wheat Pool, was to receive a plaque that honored the pioneers of the organization some fifty years later.

The Reeds stayed on the farm following retirement in 1950, when the land was leased to David and Shirley Cross. Son Kenneth passed away in 1968, following a lengthy illness. Jim and his wife live in Vancouver.

The sixty-fifth wedding anniversary was celebrated in 1980. There have been many "Golden Years" not all gold but all of great value.

## **Edith Cunningham Reid by Joan Forgey**

In 1920, Jim and Edith Cunningham and daughter Jean, moved from Ontario to Clyde. Jim's brother, Bill, had previously moved to the Clyde district and started a dairy.

Jim and Edith opened a restaurant and rooming house near the CNR Station. Daegmar Carlson and Frances Navratil were waitresses. This they closed after a few years and Jim sold insurance and was Secretary-Treasurer of School and Village.

On February 14, 1926, Jim was killed in a car accident at Fort Saskatchewan.

Edith continued to live in the same building. She rented the upstairs (the first tenants were the Frickers). She had a boarder, Rae Sterling — later Rae Jack — who worked for H. Nickerson. She acted as Secretary-Treasurer of Clyde Village and School District #57, and as she was a tailoress by profession, she did a lot of dressmaking for the people of the Village.

Later the building was sold to Simon Carlon, who re-opened the restaurant, and Edith and Jean moved to a building owned by F. McDonnall, formerly Rowland Drug Store, where she continued as secretary to Village and School. Edith also worked with Janet Cuthiel in the Telephone Office.

In 1929, Edith met Joseph Reid who bought grain for the United Grain Growers. They were married in 1930 and had a daughter, Joan. In 1934 they bought the Hallet farm, south of Clyde, which they operated in conjunction with buying grain until 1945 when they sold the farm and bought a store in Boyle, Alberta.

Joe Reid was born in Five Mile Town in Northern Ireland. At the age of 19 he left Ireland and after numerous adventures both in California and Eastern Canada, he settled in Clyde to buy grain for United Grain Growers, and also farm. He married Edith Cunningham in 1930 and together they contributed much to the community. Their years in Clyde were happy ones, but when opportunity arose to buy a retail business in Boyle, they left Clyde to pursue this avenue as it had been their ambition.

Finally they sold their Boyle business and bought a hardware store and stock in Coquitlam, B.C. which they operated under the name of Reid's Hardware. Upon their retirement, the purchaser, mindful of the goodwill they had created, retained the name "Reid's Hardware" under which it still operates.

Joe and Edith retired to Peachland where Edith died in 1967 and Joe in 1970.

Jean and Gerry Clarke, formerly of Athabasca, recently retired to Port Coquitlam.

Joan and her husband, Jim Forgey, are active in his laminated beam business in Edmonton.

## **The Ernest and Laura Reid Family** **by Jean Reid Baxandall**

My Dad was born in Perry Sound, Ontario, and my Mother, Laura Conley, in Ottawa. They came west in about 1900. Dad lived at Goodhope, between Fort Saskatchewan and Elk Island Park and my Mother at Melfort, Sask. They met in 1914, were married and lived on a farm at Goodhope until 1927. They bought a half section two miles north and one mile east of Westlock and moved the same year.



Ernest Reid's family, 1940. L to R: Stewart, Eunice, Jean, Beulah, Evalyn, Gordon.

Dad moved all our belongings by harvest wagon and drove his cattle and horses while riding his saddle horse. Then he came back and took the family in our Model T. Ford. Mom and Dad had six children: Beulah, Jean, Eunice, Gordon, Evalyn and Stewart Reid.

In 1942 they moved to Whitecourt. I (Jean) was married by then to Fred Baxandall. We had two daughters, Twyla and Marilyn. They were my parents first grandchildren.



Ernest and Laura Reid, 1960.

Both my parents have passed away — Dad in 1964 at the age of 79 and Mother in 1973 at the age of 87. My oldest sister, Beulah Johnstone, passed away in Whitecourt in 1972 at the age of 55. The rest of the family: Eunice Neilsen lives in Victoria, B.C. and has no children; Evalyn Sharkey of Blueridge had six children; Gordon Reid of Whitecourt has ten children and Stewart Reid, also of Whitecourt has three children. Fred and I live in Barrhead and have two children.

## **Renaud History** **by Paul Renaud**

Joe Renaud was born on a farm in Essex County in southern Ontario. He completed high school there before coming west to Calgary where he attended Normal School. He taught school for several years in southern Alberta before going to Fort Saskatchewan to accept a teaching position.

Flora Houle, (later Mrs. Renaud) was born at Mission City, B.C. She was the daughter of a railroad carpenter who had previously moved his family from





Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Renaud.

the state of Maine. When she was two years old the family moved to Vegreville. This was the first family to settle there. Because of the scarcity of trees for lumber to carry on his trade, the family moved to the Fort Saskatchewan area, where Flora was raised and later met and married J. P. Renaud.

After teaching in a rural school near Fort Saskatchewan, they moved to Edmonton, there he taught former hockey greats Gene Carrigan and Red Beatty. He also taught John Ducey, "Mr. Baseball" of Edmonton.



J. P. Renaud in front of store.

In 1923, Joe and Flora, with their two sons Rudy and Paul, moved back to Fort Saskatchewan. Joe and his brother-in-law, Pete Moret, had purchased the Fort Hardware. In February of 1927, Joe and Flora and four sons, Rudy, Paul, Raymond and Andy moved to Westlock. The journey was made in a Model "T" Ford coach, much of the way through fields to avoid the snowbanks and drifts.

At that time, Mr. Renaud, in partnership with W. A. C. Bennett, who was to later become a Premier of British Columbia, purchased the hardware store owned by Dios Smith. During this partnership, another hardware store was opened at Clyde. Mr. Bennett left this area in 1931 and Joe Renaud took over both stores. The Clyde store was sold in 1937.

Mr. Renaud was an active community worker. He helped plan sports days and baseball tournaments and participated in the building of two curling rinks, the golf course and the Memorial Hall. He served a total of fourteen years on the Westlock Town Council, including five and a half years as Mayor. He was also a Trustee on the Westlock School Board for a period of eight years. He was an advisory board member of the Immaculata Hospital.

The Renauds raised five sons and one daughter, Rudolph, Paul, Raymond, Andrew, Armand and Lillian. This family worked for many years in the Hardware business. Joe Renaud was deceased in 1970 at the age of 76. Mrs. Renaud died in 1971.

Raymond and family have continued in the hardware business. Paul and wife, Molly, have retired in Westlock.

Westlock and District is well thought of and remembered by the Renaud family.

## Paul Renaud Family

Paul Renaud came to Westlock from Fort Saskatchewan in 1927. Molly Hogarth arrived in Westlock from Scotland in 1925. Both grew up and obtained their education in Westlock. After serving five years with the tactical wing of the R.C.A.F. in Europe, Paul returned to Westlock and in 1947 married Molly Hogarth. At this time Paul was a partner with his father and brothers in the Westlock Hardware.

Paul and Molly had four children, Edmund, Joan, Tom and Donald. Their children in turn grew up in Westlock where they too obtained their elementary and high school education. Joan married Fred Baker in 1970 and resides in Calgary. They have two sons, Christopher and Jeffrey. Tom married Cathy Halchick in 1976. They have two sons, Kyle and Dwayne and reside in Slave Lake. Edmund married Robin Buckle in 1982. They live in Calgary. Donald



Paul Renaud family.

married Mary Pat Nigro in 1983 and is residing in Victoria, B.C.

During their years in Westlock, Paul served as a member of the Elk's Lodge for many years and served two of those years as Exalted Ruler. He has remained an active curler continuously since 1946 as well as an avid baseball and hockey fan. He is also a member of the Legion and an Advisory Board member of the Immaculata Hospital.

Molly played an active part in the Guide and Scout movement and served as Badge Secretary for many years. She was a charter member of the Royal Purple where she remained active for fifteen years, during this time serving a term as Honoured Royal Lady. She worked many years as a volunteer in the Westlock Municipal Library. She is also a member of the Duplicate Bridge Club.

Paul and Molly are now retired in Westlock. They enjoy travelling and are looking forward to many more years of residence in Westlock.

### **Raymond and Loretta Renaud Westlock**

Raymond Joseph Peter Renaud was born July 7, 1923, in Edmonton. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joachim Renaud, moved to Fort Saskatchewan, and then, in 1927, to Westlock. Raymond had four brothers and one sister.

After finishing High School, he joined the R.C.A.F. in 1942, and remained there for the duration of the war. Raymond worked in the family hardware business with his father and brothers, and now he and his own family own the business.

Raymond married Loretta Rita-Marie Borle in



Raymond and Loretta Renaud.

1950. Loretta was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Prudent F. Borle of Villeneuve area. She had eight brothers and two sisters. It was a struggle to get a high school education in those days, in a rural area, but Loretta had her goals set to become a nurse, and her dreams were realized when she graduated from the Edmonton General Hospital in 1948.

Raymond and Loretta have four children. Joseph Peter married Helen Deray in 1975 and they have a daughter, Marni-Marie. They reside in Westlock and Joe is the manager in the hardware store.

Rita-Marie married Patrick Pfefferle in 1978 and they have a son, Neil Patrick. They reside in Edmonton, where both Rita and Pat work in the nursing health field, psychiatry and pediatrics.

Francis Michael lives in Edmonton and enjoys a trade in interior systems.

Raymond Patrick, the youngest son, is completing his Grade XII.

Raymond and Loretta have always enjoyed family, friends, church, and active participation in community organizations. Raymond was an active member of the Westlock Volunteer Fire Department for thirty-five years. He is a member of the Elks Club for thirty-three years, and also spent four years on Town Council. Loretta is active in Nurses Chapter, Hospital Volunteers and Catholic Womens League.

Grandpa Borle made his home with Raymond and Loretta in 1959, and added much love and wisdom to the family life till his death in 1978, at the age of 92.

"Love of God and neighbour" taught to them by their parents, has been passed on to their children. Westlock is truly their home.

### **The Renton Family**

In September of 1906 George and Edgar Renton left their home in Tottenham, Ontario, and came west to Edmonton by train. They found work in Edmonton



for the winter and in the spring of 1907 they rode horses to Westlock and filed on two homesteads. Edgar's land was eight miles west of Westlock and George's was eight miles west and one mile south. They returned to Edmonton and again worked until the summer of 1908, saving enough money to purchase two oxen, a wagon, tent and enough food, utensils, axes, etc., and returned to their land to prove up on it.



Dutch and Doreen (Renton) MacLellan. 1940.

They lived in the tent during the summer and fall of 1908 during which time they erected a log house on George's place, also clearing some land on each of their respective homesteads. They continued their work on the land until the late fall of 1909, when they returned to Ontario. They persuaded the family to sell their place in Ontario and in the summer of 1910, George, Jim, Edgar and Henry, with their father and mother, together with what stock and equipment they kept, moved to Edmonton. The stock and equipment was moved to Westlock by George, Jim and Edgar and in the fall of 1910 Jim filed on a homestead nine miles west of Westlock.



Gordon Renton on horse.



Edgar Renton with his prize horses "Bess" and "Ruby".

During the remainder of 1910 and years 1911 and 1912, having done sufficient work for each to own their land and with money scarce, Jim and Edgar moved back to Edmonton to work and George remained on his land. Jim started a harness shop on Whyte Avenue which, after his death in November, 1919, was sold to Chapman Bros. Edgar worked for Marshall Wells for two years and from there he went to Cowles Drugs. In April, 1917, he married Violet Armstrong and continued to work at the drug store until 1919 when he decided to return to the farm. There being no buildings on the homestead, they

purchased a quarter section with house and barn, one half mile east and lived there until 1944, when both quarters were sold to Millars. During Edgar and Violet's years on the farm they were active in the community, helping to build and support the Hazel Bluff Church, the Community Hall, the Agricultural Society and all the other organizations that were necessary and worthy of support in the district. They were both members of the Westlock Old Timers Association and both life members of the Edmonton Old Timers Association.



Violet and Edgar Renton 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Edgar and Violet had two children, Gordon and Doreen. Doreen married Donald (Dutch) MacLellan. They lived many years in Westlock where Dutch worked at the creamery. They had three daughters, Delaine, Suzanne and Arlene. Dutch passed away in July, 1964 and Doreen in August, 1973. Gordon spent most of his time on the farm and in 1942 he married Betty Collins. After the farm was sold, he and his dad started a garage business in Fort Assiniboine and ran this business until 1965 when it burned down. After losing their business both families moved to Edmonton. Edgar and Violet retired here until their passing, Edgar in October, 1971 and Violet in December, 1980.

Gordon and Betty purchased a home in Edmonton where they still live. They had a family of four; Carol (Mrs. John Bell), Hinton; Esther (Mrs. Melvin Meunier), Langley; Allan, Richmond, B.C. and Kenneth who passed away in 1975.

### **Frank Rigby and Mabel Rigby** written by Mabel Rigby

Frank Rigby came to Canada from England after the first world war. He had served in the British army where he was wounded and discharged. When he first arrived in Canada he laboured on different farms in Southern Alberta and then settled in Westlock in

1924 where he purchased a quarter section through the Soldier Settlement Board. The purchase was made from Mort Bates and was located five miles northeast of Westlock. He broke more land and built a new home finishing it before he married Mabel Cowley in 1926. Our first daughter Connee was born in March 1928. In 1927 Frank purchased another quarter section joining the first at one corner from Minor Bates. Second daughter Margaret, was born in March 1930. Third daughter Marian, was born in August 1933. In 1936 he again purchased another quarter section this time a mile south of the original quarter, this was purchased from Suzie Mire. Fourth daughter Carole, was born in 1944. Lacking boys to carry on the mixed farming operation he had built up he sold the two home quarters to Pete Tassler and thus retired from farming moving to Westlock for about a year and then to Edmonton in 1954. He passed away in 1968 at the age of 73. I am presently living in Prince George B.C. where daughters Marian and Carole also reside. Connee and Margaret both live in Montreal, Quebec.

### **Arthur Riopel** by Mrs. Lorenzo Provost

Arthur Riopel was born in the province of Quebec in 1890, and came west with his parents in 1891, to farm in the Morinville district.

In 1915 he married Beatrice Rousseau, when they moved to their homestead in Vimy, which at that



At Elk Park School, 1938. Back: Therese and Simonne Riopel, Ruby Sterling (Teacher). Front: Laurette and M. Rose Riopel.



time, was known as Dunrobin. In 1917 he moved back to Morinville, buying his father's farm as his wife, who was a city girl, could not take the home-stead life.

Six children were born in Morinville: Gerard, Donald, Simonne, Therese, Laurette and Ernest. In 1929, Arthur bought a section of land in Alcomdale, where Marie Rose was born. He moved his family to Pickardville in 1935, purchasing the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ -22-58-26-W4 from Mr. McLennan. Most of the children attended school in Morinville, Spring View in Busby, and Elk Park in the Vimy district. Some of their teachers in Elk Park were: Miss Verrett, Miss R. Sterling, Miss Savard, Miss Matthieu, Mrs. Jenner, Miss Albert and Miss Landry.



Breaking land on the Provost farm in Pickardville, 1931.

Mr. and Mrs. Riopel lived on their farm till their deaths in 1974 and 1975.

Gerard, the oldest, married Agnes Provost and still farms in the Pickardville district.

Donald, after attending nine years of college in Montreal, operated a shoe repair shop in Pickardville in the 1940's, but is now residing with Marie Rose and Ernest, who are operating the home farm.

Therese and Laurette, after finishing school, joined a religious order and are now residing in Edmonton.

Simonne married Lorenzo Provost, lived on their farm for a few years, (NW-21-58-27-W4) which was purchased from Lucien Lalonde, then sold to Arthur Riopel. In 1949 she and her husband purchased the Pioneer Store in Pickardville. She worked in the store until her retirement and now lives at Dapp.

## The Ristoff Family

Frederick William Ristoff was born in Gomber, Poland, in 1909 to Frederick and Emelie (Bleick) Ristoff, a storekeeper and his wife. He had an older sister Albertina (Tews), and one younger sister Olga (Schnell). In 1929, at the age of twenty, he immigrated to Canada, coming first to Edmonton. Shortly after, he moved to Arvilla to farm.

In 1938 he met Frieda Bucholtz, who had been born in Kaluga, Russia in 1914. When she was ten years old, her family journeyed to Canada. They arrived at Halifax Harbour on April 28, 1924. From there they came to Edmonton and settled in the Bruderheim area. Fred and Frieda were married at Lunnford, Alberta, and moved to a farm near Manola. Six children were born to them, three of which died in infancy. Herbert William, the oldest, was born in 1939 at the Barrhead General Hospital, Norma (Goller) in 1940 and Darvin in 1949.

Bill Ristoff was very active in the church, being a church councillor in the St. Luke's Lutheran Church at Manola for many years. He was also active in the Westlock and District Band until it was dissolved.

In February of 1955, a great loss was sustained by the family in the passing of Frieda Ristoff at a young age, with a young family left, but the family survived.

A few years later, Bill took on a school bus route in the County of Barrhead; a route which he still had until a few weeks before his early death in 1967.

There were happy moments, too! In 1961 Norma married John Goller and in 1963 Herb married Annie (Goller), who was the youngest daughter of Herman and Johanna Goller, and was born at Moon Lake in 1941. She attended Mill Bank school until 1950, when the family moved to the Westlock district where she attended the Edison school until its closure in 1955. She graduated from Westlock High School in 1960 and after graduation, was employed at the Bank of Montreal in Westlock, where she worked for three years, until her marriage to Herb Ristoff in the spring of 1963. Their joint love of music was a main factor in their meeting and then marriage. Herb had played in the Westlock and District Band since the age of 13. Since the band played at the Fairs and church functions regularly, they were both often in the same places. After Annie's confirmation in 1956, her girlfriend and she took on the Sunday School class and taught until 1963. After their marriage they moved to a farm in the Eastburg (or Highridge) area and still reside there.

To this marriage, five children were born; David in 1963, twin girls in 1964, who died shortly after birth, Randall born in 1965 and Lori-Anne in 1968.

Herb was on the Board of Directors of the Highridge Hall Club until it became the Highridge Agricultural Society in 1980, when he became the treasurer, which position he held until November, 1982.

Herb and Annie became life members of the society in January of 1983 and hope to continue to support the society.

Their three children attended Manola school until

grade six, when they enrolled in the Westlock Junior High school. Herb also took on a bus route in 1967 on a permanent basis after having been a spare driver for many years. He is still a driver for the County of Barrhead.

David completed his grade twelve and graduated in 1980. He is at present apprenticing to be a Motor Mechanic.

Randall is completing grade twelve this June and is undecided about his future. Lori-Anne is in grade nine at the Westlock Junior High school.

Music is still the Ristoff family's greater trait. Lori-Anne and David both are able to play instruments, and Randall is playing records or tapes constantly! Lori-Anne has been in the Junior-high band since grade seven. She is also taking organ lessons at home.

Herb has been in an active dance group since the early 1970's being both an accordin and a saxophone player. Herb is also active in church functions, as well as Annie, Herb being a church councillor at Trinity Lutheran church in Westlock and Annie a Sunday School teacher there, spare or full-time, as needed.

## **Dave Rivet**

**by Clara Brown**

Dave Rivet came from Morinville with his wife and family of two boys, Alphonse and Wilfred, also four girls, Precille, Lucienne, Rachelle and Laura.

Dave bought the NW¼-18-58-25-W4. They farmed this land during the depression. The children all attended the Springfield School.

Later, they sold the land to Tom Arlow and moved to B.C. where they ran a store and hotel.

## **Frank Rivet**

**by J. Rivet**

Frank Rivet and Marie Beaudry were married in Argyle, Minn., U.S.A., where they lived until they emigrated to Canada. Their son, Joseph, was born in 1903 while still in Argyle. Frank filed on his homestead, the SE¼-18-58-25-W4 in 1904 and moved, with his family, in 1905 to take up residence there.

During the years, four girls were added to the family; Mary, Blanche, Josephine and Lea.

Mary married Wallace Lindquist; Blanche married Raoul Ruffiange; Josephine married Tiliza Clouthier and Lea married Alfred Le Blanc. Joseph did not marry.

At the time of writing, Mary and Josephine have passed away. Frank died May 15, 1920 and Marie, his wife, died December 2, 1965.

## **Evan and Betty Rose Roberts Story**

**by Evan Roberts**

Upon completing high school in Westlock, I attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture, taking the 2-in-1 course. Graduating in 1953, I returned to the farm with my dad. In 1954, I rented the north half section of 20-60-26-W4 from Howard Smiley of Mt. Vernon, Washington.



Evan Roberts family, 1982. Standing, L to R: Joyce, Jim, Evan, Dan and wife Heather, Lonnie Brown and wife Karen. Seated: Betty Rose.

On June 15, 1957, I married Betty Rose, youngest daughter of Fred and Phoebe Lyons of the Sunnysbank district, who at that time was nursing at the Barrhead Hospital. This same year we purchased the NW¼ 20-60-26-W4 and have made our home here ever since. At the same time, my dad bought the NE¼ 20-60-26-W4.

In 1967, the SW¼ 29-60-26-W4 (the quarter across the road) was purchased from Ward and Kay Armitage of Westlock, and also the fraction of land lying directly east of this quarter was obtained in 1980. Since my dad's retirement I have rented his land plus additional land in the neighborhood.

The raising of Registered Polled Hereford and Simmental cattle is the main enterprise of Myalta Farm today.

Betty Rose and I have raised a family of four children; two boys and two girls. Daniel Evan was born November 13, 1958. Dan married Heather Buzacott of Sherwood Park in 1980 and has been an Edmonton City Policeman for over four years. Karen Margaret was born Feb. 17, 1960. Upon completing a two-year course in Animal Health at Fairview College, Karen married Lonnie Brown of Linaria district





Roberts family in 1970. Back row: Evan, Margaret, Bob and Betty Rose. Front: Joyce, Karen, Jim and Dan.

in 1981. They reside at Olds, where Lonnie is taking his second year at the Agriculture College. Joyce Elizabeth was born February 19, 1963; she attended Mount Carmel Bible School for a year after high school. Joyce is presently working at the office of Intervarsity Christian Fellowship in Edmonton and plans to attend NAIT in September, 1983. James Frederick, born October 5, 1965, is completing his final semester at Westlock High School. Jim plans to attend the University of Alberta in September, 1983.

### The Robins Family

W. J. Robins was born in Roseneath, Ontario on December 7, 1872. He came west to Saskatchewan and homesteaded six miles from Abernethy. He married Lena Landon in 1894. Lena was born December 18, 1877. He proved up on the homestead and bought a half section bordering the village of Abernethy. He built a cement block house for the family. The railway went through this land. This was a branch line from Balcarres to Brandon, Manitoba, Balcarres being a divisional point, the C.N.R. going to Melville and beyond.

W. J. had a butcher shop in town and did customs curing of hams and bacon.

In 1910 he sold his farm and moved out west to where he bought a quarter section from Percy Andres, the N.W. 12-60-RI-W5 five miles west of Westlock, two miles north and half a mile west. The Riverdale school was on the next quarter west. The Post Office was just a mile north and also a little grocery store run by Mr. Tom Letts.

There was just twenty acres broken on the home quarter so it had to be cleared the hard way with an



Dora (Robins) and Allan Day on their wedding day.

axe. It was February 28, 1911 when we arrived at Clyde in a caboose, and we had to come by team and democrat from there as there wasn't enough snow for sleighing. It was very cold and the log shack was a great disappointment after the nice home we had left in Sask. However we had some wonderful neighbours, the McDougalls who took us in for three or four days while Mother and Bella covered the walls with unbleached cotton then the papers over that. In no time at all they had the place quite home like.

They milked eight or ten cows and had pigs, chickens and a large garden. Dad being a butcher had a smoke house and cured the hams and bacon so we lived well. There was plenty of wild fruit such as raspberries, strawberries, saskatoons and cranberries, Mother would put up four or five hundred quarts each year. Dad would take a load of wheat to the flour mill in Westlock to be ground into flour. We used two hundred pounds a month.

In 1915 Willie, the oldest boy enlisted in the 202 Battalion and after a few weeks training at Sarcee Camp was sent over seas. He was transferred to the 10th Battalion, machine gun section. He was third on the machine gun when he was killed in action on September 2nd, 1918. Forrest Adair was first on the machine gun when Willie was hit by shrapnel and killed instantly.

When Forrest and Willie first met, Forrest asked Willie if he had any sisters at home and Willie said yes, lots of them. Forrest said he was going to get one of them and he did just that. Forrest and Mary, (the oldest girl) were married November 30th, 1920.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Robins.

Earle the next oldest married Muriel Meade and they had one son, Stanley. Wellington married Jean McQuarrie and they had six boys and two girls. Emily married Harry McGowan and they adopted two children, a boy and a girl. Leslie and Clara had three sons. Frank and Dorothy had one son and Frank passed away in 1980. Annie married George McQuarrie and they had two boys and three girls. Dora married Allan Day and had two children, a boy and a girl, Fred and Iva were twins, Fred married Margaret Hart and they had one daughter. Iva married Ab. Shelton and they had two girls and three boys. Hugh married Molly Webb and they had three daughters. Agnes never married. Madge married Charles Staines and had three sons. A baby girl, Doris died and so did Earle's twin sister Bessie. Eva married Ken Bindon and they have three daughters and one son.

Earle passed away in 1970. There were twelve children when we came to Westlock and five more were born in Alberta.

Mother passed away in 1956 and Dad passed away in 1954. Iva passed on in 1977.

### The Robinson Chapter by Marion (Robinson) Kolthammer

My father, Mr. Herbert B. Robinson, was born in Dundalk, Ontario, and my Mother, Dell (Mitchell) Robinson, came from Wingham, Ontario. They were married in Calgary in 1917, and made their home at that time, in Stavely, Alberta. My father was the Manager of the Bank of Hamilton there, and the brick building now housing the Bank of Commerce, is one and the same building that he saved in the Stavely fire, when the entire business section of town was destroyed, except for the Bank.

From Stavely, he moved to Cayley for eight

years, and then to Onoway, for four. The year was 1936, and still part of the "dirty thirties". We were in the midst of the "Depression", and the economy was not great. It had been decided that the Bank of Commerce would close its doors in Onoway, and my Dad decided that he would take a "retirement allowance", and try the General Store business — about which he knew nothing. To make a long story short, he arranged to buy the Nickerson store in Clyde. Mr. H. W. Nickerson had been in business in Clyde for some time, but his eyesight was failing, and so it was, that in early March of 1936, we moved to Clyde, my father and mother, and three daughters, Dorothy, Marion (myself) and Helen.

I believe that at that time it was probably cheaper to move by rail, and I recall living for some days in the Clyde Hotel, whilst we awaited the arrival of our household effects, by way of the C.N.R. We rented a house, (later occupied by L. Patry Sr. for many years), and settled in to "storekeeping" and school.

By the time my father paid Mr. Nickerson for the business, there was about \$200.00 left, for operating capital, so things were pretty close.



Robinson girls when they arrived in Clyde. L to R: Marion, Helen and Dorothy.



Mr. Henry Peterson had been working in the store for the Nickerson's for some time, and much as my Dad hated to do so, he had to let him go, because he simply could not afford any hired help, hence we all had to pitch in, and try to make a living.

Dorothy and I had to sweep the store every morning on the way to school; — the floors were oiled wood, and we used a lot of green dustbane, in those days. We also had to help after school and Saturdays, and my Mother worked as much as she could.

Nabob Coffee was 45 cents a pound, then, in the green tin, but we had an electric coffee grinder, and sold a lot of ground bean coffee at three pounds for a dollar. There was a lovely aroma, from freshly ground coffee. The cheese came in big round triplets, (who ever heard of pre-packaged cheese), and customers used to help themselves to a chunk, with loose ginger-snaps, for a snack, as they waited around the big pot-bellied stove, for their orders. (No self-service either, then.)

One of our jobs was weighing and packaging sugar, brown sugar, beans etc. not to mention dates! Dates came solidly packed in wooden crates, and how I hated packaging the sticky things. Of course there was no running water, so we had to have a pail of hot water handy, to clean off the sticky knives, or whatever, with which we pried them apart.

Eggs and dairy butter were exchanged for groceries at that time, and I remember my father spending many long hours digging eggs out of pails of "chop" or grain, and grading them, in a little curtained-off booth, in the store. These items were then picked up by truck from Produce Companies, one to which was Jake Superstein's. That was also the time of Social Credit money, another means of exchange.

The town boasted a Consolidated School district — there were only a couple of buses, driven by the Beaton brothers, and there were also several horse-drawn canvas "caboooses" with small stoves in them, that brought students to school in the winter. When the hockey team visited Athabasca or Barrhead, one of these "caboooses" would be loaded on the back of a truck, and we would all pile in, and go to the game, warm and snug.

Mr. Wilfred Pilkington came to Clyde at this time, and was our High School Principal, for my last years in school. He was a "no-nonsense" type, for which I am sure, many of us were grateful, in later years. He taught Grades Nine through Twelve, and we either applied ourselves and worked, or else!

Some of the boys made an arrangement with a garage owner, Jim Fisk, where the garage doors were visible from the High School, to have the scores of the World Series Baseball game posted, as the game was in progress. It was a good idea, we thought, but it

was also noted by our Principal, and it didn't last long.

Elsie Burdick coached the girl's basketball team, and for several summers we "camped" at the Exhibition Grounds in Edmonton, during the week of the Fair, and played other teams from central and northern Alberta. Mrs. Bob McMillan was our "house-mother", and our team did very well. We made a lot of friends at those tournaments, and looked forward to going, all year.

Several summers, our parents allowed us to rent a cabin out at Island Lake, from the Critchley's, and about ten of us would camp out there for a week, doing our own cooking, and enjoying the swimming. It was an inexpensive holiday, but we thought it was great.

One of the things that appealed to my Dad, was that because there was no bank, in Clyde, the store handled the cash for grain tickets, for all the elevators. He purchased a heavy safe from the old Royal Bank, and thought it much more impregnable than the smaller one in the store. This proved to be a real challenge for a gang of safecrackers. One night they broke into Renaud's hardware, and stole some rifles, and ammunition, and then proceeded to take their time, trying to "blow" the safe. We didn't have twenty-four hour telephone service, and although some of the citizens were aware of what was happening, no one dared interfere. The bottom line was that the efforts of the robbers were unsuccessful, but they really made a mess of the store — holes blown in the ceiling, and a lot of merchandise ruined. The safe was taken to Edmonton, opened, and then repaired, all of which cost my Dad a fair amount, and the grain companies were unconcerned, as their money was insured, anyhow.

Over the years, my parents were very involved in the community. Dad served on the village council — I'm not sure how long or in what capacity. He and my mother were always active church workers. Dad was an Elder for years, and Mother was choir leader all their years in Clyde. She also taught in the Sunday School, and was a lifetime member of the United Church Women. She loved concerts, Plays, etc., and coached many youngsters in elocution.

I left home in 1939, to pursue a career in Nursing. My older sister worked in the store, for several years, and then married Elwood Stephens — his father was the Station Agent at that time. She subsequently moved to Allentown, Pennsylvania, where she still resides.

My younger sister married John Moore, and lived in the Stettler area, until her untimely death in 1972. She was a District Home Economist, with the Provincial Dep't of Agriculture.

I married Sidney Mills after the war, and lived in the Onoway district for many years. Sid died in 1975,; I have since re-married, and reside in Edmonton. The Robinson's had six grandchildren, one girl, and five boys.

Prior to 1939, my Dad purchased the home originally built, by James Taylor, from the Fernyhough family, — it was my parent's first real home of their own, and they lived there the rest of their lives. Dad had a "green thumb", and loved gardening, mostly flowers. He also had a fling at Beekeeping — his hives were out at Stewart Maclachlan's farm, but this was short-lived, for he became allergic to their sting, and after one serious episode, he gave it up.

Some time in the forties, Dad purchased the property on the corner just east of the Nickerson Store, and built a new store, which he really enjoyed. Let us say it was his hobby.



Del and "Robbie" Robinson on their 40th wedding anniversary.

Things were gradually changing — in the early years, Clyde was a busy Saturday night town, where the farm people shopped, and visited, while their young people went to the village dance. There were four stores, then, all busy.

As it happened all over the province, some towns grew, and some deteriorated. Goods and services drew the people, and as Westlock had many of the latter, it flourished, and Clyde did not. My Dad was aware of this, but his roots were down, and he was not a man to start afresh, in his twilight years. In other

words, he was content, and he stayed. I can say in all sincerity that he helped a lot of people through tough times — he felt he could never live with himself, if there were children hungry or in need.

He was a staunch supporter of the Orange Lodge Home for abandoned children, in Edmonton, and sent them many contributions of clothing and goodies, over the years.

My Mother's health had been failing, and she passed away in her sleep, in September, in the early fifties. Dad never recovered from the shock — he seemed to lose all desire to live, and he passed away the following March. In compliance with their wishes, they are at rest in Dungannon Cemetery, Clyde.

## The Roch Family

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Roch, Sr., came west from Montreal where they had worked in a cotton factory. They came to Morinville, then to a farm near Westlock in May, 1918. The following year he built a large white building just east of Lindahl's store in which he started a bake shop in one half and he and his wife with their six children lived in the rest of the building.

Simon, the oldest son, worked with Ed Wilson in the first cartage business in Westlock. Lucien (Shorty) and Joe Jr., helped in the bakery. Violetta worked at the Sheppard Hotel; Simon candled eggs at the creamery while Jeane was a caretaker at the little white school in Westlock. From her first paycheck, Jeane bought a pair of skates.



Mr. and Mrs. Joe Roch, Sr.





Mr. and Mrs. Joe Roch, 1938.

Mr. Roch operated a very fine bakery which he ran until his retirement when he moved back to the farm. Lucien and his wife operated the bakeshop until 1935, when he sold his interest to his younger brother, Joe, who continued as "Joe, the baker" for many years.

Violetta married Pete Frigon and they had a family of eighteen, nine boys and nine girls.



Joe and Joe Roch taking a coffee break at threshing time, 1927.

Shorty and his wife moved to McLennan to operate a bakery there in 1935. Shorty and Jean seemed to be the sports-minded ones in the family. Jean married Bo St. John, was an ardent curler and was prominent

in school sports. Their son Del, was also a sportsman and became a prominent hockey coach in Europe.

Joe and his wife still reside in Westlock, after retiring from the bakery business.

### Aaron M. Roddick Family

Aaron Roddick was born at Lyndhurst in Leeds County east of Kingston, Ontario in 1880. The Roddick family had come from Dumfries, Scotland, to Spencerville and later to Lyndhurst, in the early 1830's. James Roddick, Aaron's father, operated a saw mill in Lyndhurst and it was in this mill, at the age of twelve, that Aaron lost his right arm.

The youngest of a family of six, his accident dictated a career which would make no physical demands upon him, and so it was determined by his family that he would be educated as a teacher. He attended high school in Athens, Ontario, and received his Bachelor of Arts, in English and the Classics from Queens University in 1906.



Aaron and Annie Roddick's Golden Wedding.

Aaron suffered a severe attack of pleurisy in his last year at university, and his doctor suggested that if he was to avoid dying at an early age, he should settle in a drier climate. Thus it was that following graduation he went to Calgary, where he attended the Calgary Normal School and received his teaching certificate in 1907. In that same year, with his older brother John and his father James, he filed on a homestead, the S.W. 4-61-26 W4th Meridian, in the

vicinity of Pibroch — then called Debney. So began a career in which teaching and farming were inextricably intertwined.

Aaron Roddick and his wife Annie May (Dougall), settled on the homestead in 1910.

Aaron Roddick was one of the first school teachers at Pibroch, was the first Postmaster there and also the Secretary-Treasurer of the Local Improvement District.

The homestead at Pibroch supported Aaron and Annie Roddick and their four children born to them between the years 1909 and 1918. It was a hard and financially unrewarding life for Aaron and his family, as it was for their fellow pioneers who opened up the Westlock district in the second decade of the century. In the early years the nearest doctor was at Edmonton, accessible only by horse and wagon. When the railway was pushed north from Edmonton it provided a vital link to civilization, and its building a supplementary income for the homestead wives, including Mrs. Roddick, who fed the construction gangs.

In 1918 the Roddicks returned to Leeds County and Mr. Roddick operated a market garden at Lyn, near Brockville, Ontario. The call of the West could not be denied. In 1928 Aaron Roddick and his family returned to Pibroch and during the next seven years he taught at Nestow, Linaria, Jarvie and Scanlon schools.

In 1935 Mr. Roddick purchased a farm at Larkspur, ten miles east of Dapp, which he developed and farmed until his retirement in 1950. During the war years he carried on the farm with the help of his neighbors and his wife and at the request of the local School Board, returned to the classroom in Larkspur school, for whom no teacher could be found.

Mr. and Mrs. Roddick spent the first few years of their retirement in Pibroch, but most of it in Devon, Alberta. In later years they lived at the Rosslyn Lodge in North Edmonton and when their health failed, at the Good Samaritan Home in South Edmonton.

Mrs. Roddick passed away in 1976 and Mr. Roddick in January, 1979.

Their four sons, Dougall, John, Lyman and Paul all served in World War II. Their two daughters, Lura and Betty are registered nurses.

Lura (Mrs. Archie Gillies) lives in Guelph, Ontario, John in Westlock, Lyman in Fort Erie, Ontario, Paul in Ottawa, Ontario and Betty (Mrs. Richard Cherry) in Edmonton, Alberta. Dougall, their eldest son lived in New Westminster, British Columbia, but passed away in the early 1980's.

### **John E. and Mercy Roddick**

John E. Roddick was born in Lyndhurst, Ontario

and in 1907, accompanied by his father, James Roddick and his younger brother, Aaron Roddick came to the Pibroch district, then called "Debney", and filed on a homestead the S.E. 6-61-26 W4th Meridian.

In 1913 he married Mercy Smith, a school teacher from Elgin, Ontario. Mercy had obtained most of her education in Elgin, Ontario and graduated from the Model School training course at Athens, Ontario. In 1897-98, as Miss Smith, she taught in Morton, Ontario, at the little old six-sided brick school (today, quite a village landmark), atop a hill on Leeds Street, opposite the Post Office. She had about forty pupils. She remembered the day word reached the village that an automobile would be passing through for the first time and she dismissed the pupils long enough for them to get a glimpse of the "new wonder".

Being a teacher was a leading role in Mrs. Roddick's life, having spent seventeen years teaching in Ontario, before coming to Alberta.



Archie Gillies and Mercy Roddick — 1964.

Mr. and Mrs. Roddick later acquired the S.W. 6-61-26 W4th Meridian and the N.E. and N.W. 31-60-26 4th Meridian. This land was definitely in a pioneer condition, but they kept improving it by growing crops of oats and hay etc. They acquired a good herd of dairy cattle and for a time were the largest shippers of cream to the Creamery in Westlock.

Mr. and Mrs. Roddick were very community minded. In the winter of 1914-15 John helped to build the little Community log hall, on the land that was donated by Mr. Alex Irvine, named the "Pibroch Farmers' Hall". This hall was used by any group or organization requiring it. It was also used as the first school. In 1923, when the new Community hall was



built, John Roddick purchased the little log hall and donated it to "The Presbyterian Church of Pibroch". He was one of the trustees of this church.

Mercy Roddick was the first President of the Ladies Aid at Pibroch, which later became the "United Church Women", and held this office until she left the district, approximately twenty-one years later. Mercy Roddick also taught school at Pibroch for several years.

Mr. and Mrs. Roddick were wonderful friends and neighbors and were always ready and willing to help anyone in need.

In 1943, John Roddick's health began to fail him and they sold their holdings and returned to Elgin, Ontario. John passed away about a year later.

After John's death, Mercy made her home at Elgin, Ontario, with her brother Sinclair Smith and his wife. She attended the United Church services regularly and was a devoted member of the United Church Women's group, in which she acted as Secretary for twelve years. For several years she was active in the Sunday School as well. She was in her late nineties when she passed away.

## The Rosendales

by daughter Marion (Rosendale) Pattyn

John and Marie Rosendale came from Holland. My dad came first in 1907 to St. Albert, Alberta. He rented a small farm near St. Albert and the Sturgeon River. It had a one-room log shack on it with a mud roof and was plastered with manure on the outside for warmth. We lived there for three years.

In 1908, Mother came out with her three children, Al, Anne, and Marion. My dad had been a well dressed policeman in Holland, so when my mother

saw him at the station, scruffy and in dirty overalls, she often said, "If she had had the money, she would have gone right back to Holland."

Two more children, Chris and Grace, were born in that shack. Next Dad rented a bigger farm with a frame house. We attended the O'Donnell school, a little red brick school house. To gather more money we took potatoes to a downtown market in Edmonton in a wagon. Also, Anne and I took cream to St. Albert in a buggy and our dog would always follow us. One time a big dog came out from a farm. There was a terrible fight. After this we still let our dog come with us but took along a pitchfork. As we came near this farm our dog was missing. We saw him racing across the field and he met us later. There is a moral to this story — if you want to avoid trouble, go around it. We spent the next three years in this bigger house.



John and Marie Rosendale's "creepy" house being torn down. New house being built is still occupied by Rosendales.



Mr. John Rosendale with Mabel — "The washer-woman."

Our next step, Dad bought a quarter section of land from a Mr. Leslie, originally owned by the Tally family. It was three and a half miles south of Pickardville. Dad couldn't wait to get started on this new farm, so in January, 1914, he loaded some furniture on a hay rack, along with some food, the cat and dog and rounded up nine cows. Al was thirteen years old then, Anne eleven and me, nine — imagine the problems we had keeping those cows from going into every open gate, but we made it to Riviere Qui Barre the first day. We stayed in a hotel overnight. The animals had to be fed. I forgot the cold when I saw a beautiful chandelier, all different coloured glass in the dining room. Next day we reached the new farm with a big six room house. It was creepy. Most of the windows were broken. We always believed this house was haunted — footsteps coming from upstairs and the stair door would open — probably from drafts, but who knew?

Dad had to go back and get the rest of the family and belongings. It was so cold in that house the cat sat

on the oven door all day — bread would be frozen solid. We were glad to see a kindly Frenchman, Albert Noyer, who checked on us every day.

Time went on and my last brother, John, was born on that farm. Mrs. George McMillan was my mother's midwife. We attended Vermillion Springs school. Our mail came to Echo Hill Post Office.

Al was the first to leave home at the age of seventeen. I guess he got a yen for railroads. The Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia railway crossed over part of our farm. Al went to Detroit, married an American girl, Billie Smith, and became one of the youngest engineers on the famous "Wabash Cannon Ball." They are now retired in Florida.

Next to leave was Anne; she was a teacher at seventeen and later taught in Vermillion Springs school. Her first ambition was to buy a car. She and I went to Edmonton, where she bought a model T Ford. Dad and a neighbor boy who said he could drive a car came in with us. First he put the car in reverse and knocked over a fence. Next he hit a man crossing the street, but luckily, he wasn't hurt. Four miles from home the car "conked out" so Dad walked to get horses to pull it the rest of the way home.

Anne married Jack Forsythe. They had four children: Beatrice, teaching in Ontario; Jean, a lab technician in Vancouver, B.C.; Allen, a veterinarian in Vancouver and Joy, a housewife living in Ontario.



John and Marie Rosendale family.

I was first to migrate to Vancouver. I had a good life. I made sailor pants during the war — later I owned my own coffee shop. Chris stayed on the farm and married a local girl, Jean Lambert. They had eight children: Dennis, Christine, Philip, Brian, Joan, Louise, John and Julie.

The old house was finally torn down and a new house built. More land was bought. Mother and Dad retired in Vancouver. Later most of the land was sold except for about twenty acres which is still occupied by Rosendales.

Grace came to Vancouver, married Bob. They had six children.

John also came to Vancouver. He and his wife, Rowena, have three children. He was in the Armed Forces five years and is now Federal Fisheries inspector.

My folks were very sociable people. Our home often had twenty-five people in for supper, such as McMillans, Yeomans, Tallys, Joe and Keith Best, Byvanks and Hoogers from Eastburg. I can still see adults dancing and laughing. In later years we danced in the old Pickardville Hall to Martin's nine piece orchestra.

Another event I remember is Charlie Tally's big steam engine at threshing time. The guys could eat you out of house and home!

Our memories are God's greatest gift to us.

## Arthur Mack Ross

as told by Thomas Townsend

Arthur Ross, born in Prince Edward Island in 1881, farmed a half section 6 miles straight west of Pickardville. As I recall, the two quarters were situated one on each side of the road running north and south. He married Mary Liversage, a sister to Mrs. Tom Holley and at the time Pickardville post mistress. Arthur was, for a time, partner with Mr. Tom Holley in the farm implement business.

In the early 1940's Mr. and Mrs. Ross moved to the West Coast and lived at Wellington, just north of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. Later, after the death of Mrs. Ross, Arthur moved to Kelowna, B.C. where he remarried and lived for many years. In 1974 he moved to Langley, B.C. He passed away in 1975 at the age of 95.

Arthur Ross at one time raised sheep and grew alfalfa. While watching the sheep one day among the alfalfa he was asked the value of wool from a black sheep. Uncle Arthur, as we called him at that time, informed us that the white wool was worth eight cents a pound but black wool was worth ten cents less!



## The W. A. Ross Family

Bill and Betty, natives of Saskatchewan, came to Westlock in 1949 and settled into the home which for many years had been known as 'Trails End'. Bill liked the large yard because it gave him scope to experiment with landscaping, with room for a kennel for his pets, and room also to swing a golf club.

After Bill took his discharge from the Army, he entered the College of Agriculture, University of Alberta, graduated in 1948 and spent a year at Athabasca as Assistant District Agriculturist. From 1949 to 1956 Bill served the Barrhead-Westlock area from the Westlock office, and thereafter, until retirement in 1973, he filed the position of District Agriculturist for Westlock area. Retirement was tragically short as he passed away in 1976.

During his twenty four years as DA, he took special interest in the 4H movement and enjoyed helping young people in the clubs. He came from a sports-loving family and all his life he was interested in sports and especially golf and curling. He served as secretary of the Golf Club for sixteen years.

Our daughter Margaret graduated from Westlock High School and obtained Grade IX (Piano) diploma. The highlight of her high school years was playing in the High School band led by Jerry Bryant. Most notable of the out-of-town trips was the trip by bus to Expo (Montreal) in 1967. Margaret trained as a nurse and since obtaining her RN has been working at the Aberhart Division of the University Hospital.

Betty's chief interest has been volunteer work at the library, particularly in the early years when the need was great.

## Ernest J. and Clara J. Sabourin by Clara J. Sabourin

The roots of the family go deep into the past of the district. Ernest J. Sabourin, born in Westlock August 4, 1920, is the second son of Elie J. and Corinne Sabourin who originally settled in the Vimy district in 1904. Clara J. Sabourin (nee Haack) is the youngest daughter of George J. M. and Mary Haack, pioneers of the Tawatinaw district since 1904.

The rigors of rural life were no strangers to their respective families during their formative years. In 1948 Ernest began working as a cabinet-maker in Edmonton where he learned his trade. Clara initially was employed as a legal secretary for Lionel R. Tellier Q.C. from 1946 until the practice was sold to G. R. Rennie, for whom she worked until 1954.

Upon his return to Westlock, Ernest married Clara on May 1, 1952 and worked as a carpenter for Brost Construction until 1957 when he joined Nard Shaver Construction. Clara returned to work for Gordon R. Rennie in 1955 and continued until 1958 when



Ernie Sabourin family. L to R: Linda Mosher, Roland Sabourin, Ernest Sabourin, Sharon Sabourin. Seated: Clara Sabourin.

she resigned to become a full-time homemaker and mother. In 1963 David J. Fenton and Ernest Sabourin formed the partnership of Sabourin & Fenton Construction, and subsequently in 1972 upon the retirement of David J. Fenton, Ernest carried on business under the firm name of E. Sabourin Construction as sole proprietor. Many of the farm homes and buildings in the area were built by this firm during this period; also many homes within the Town of Westlock were built and renovated by them. Upon the establishment of the Westlock R.C. Separate School District No. 110 in 1963, Clara joined this Board as Secretary. Upon the death of Rt. Rev. E. Rooney in March, 1975, Clara assumed the position of Secretary-Treasurer of that Board, and still holds that position. During the years with the Separate School Board Clara worked with many different Board members, although the Chairman, Mr. W. J. Kallal, remained constant. She has seen three school principals, Sister Miriam de Lourdes, Mr. T. C. Grinnell, and Mr. P. J. Skitsko, and also three Superintendents. She has seen the school grow from 150 students to a high of 442, and today's enrollment is 420. In the twenty years the school has been in existence, three additions have been made.

Service clubs of which Ernest and Clara have been active members have been the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League.

Three children were born to Ernest and Clara:

Roland Joseph, born August 3, 1954, attended Westlock Elementary until 1964, and then St. Mary Separate until his graduation in 1972. He subsequently attended the University of Alberta, receiving a B.Sc. (Biology) with Distinction and a Masters of

Business Administration. Married in 1981 to Miss Mary Anne McIntosh of Ft. Saskatchewan, they currently reside in Calgary where Roland is employed by Shell Canada Limited as a Real Estate and Development Marketing Representative. Mary Anne, who holds a Medical Lab Science Degree from the University of Alberta, is employed by the Calgary Foothills Hospital as a Research Assistant in anaesthetics.

May 9, 1959 marked the birth of Linda Marie. Attending St. Mary School she graduated in 1977, and subsequently received a Certificate in Computer and Business Machines from Alberta College. After brief employment in Edmonton, Linda returned to Westlock as a legal secretary in the office of J. V. Murphy. Married June, 1979 to John Thomas Mosher of Westlock, who is a 4th year apprentice electrician presently employed by R & V Electric of Morinville. The couple and their first child, Michael, continue to reside in Westlock.

The youngest of Ernest and Clara's children, Sharon Marie, born April 29, 1966, is presently attending High School at St. Mary School. Sharon's primary interest is music and she has completed her Grade IX Western Board Piano with Honors. Besides her High School studies she teaches piano and plans on continuing her education at the University of Alberta after graduation. Sharon has also participated in Search for Talent and in local musical productions.

All family members have been active in the growth of the community.

## Joseph Elie Sabourin and Corinne Sabourin

by Yvette Sabourin

My father, Joseph Elie Sabourin, was born on June 23, 1896 in Blizard Valley, Ontario to Timothé and Emilienne Sabourin (née Chenier). He was the eldest son of a large family, of whom only two brothers and four sisters grew to adulthood. In the early 1900's he came west with his parents settling in the Morinville area for a few years. In 1904 Grandpa Sabourin bought a farm belonging to Josephat Sabourin. This land is situated 5 miles east and 5 miles south of Westlock. During the intervening years it was sold several times, but always to someone who was related to Grandpa in some way, including his two grandsons, Ernest and Richard. As of now, this land no longer belongs in the family.

Mom was born Corinne Lambert, third eldest daughter of Desirée and Cecile Lambert of Ottawa, Ontario. In the early 1900's Mom's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Beauchamp, had moved west, settling around St. Albert for the first few



Joseph and Corinne Sabourin with their three oldest children; Paul, Ernest and Rita.

years. They later moved to the Edison district where several other families of French origin had settled. When they returned for a visit to Eastern Canada in 1916 Mom wanted to come back with them. She tells us that she lit candles in their church and prayed that her parents would allow her to come as she was only 15 years old. Reluctantly they gave their permission and on March 7th, 1917, Mom arrived west, a move she says she has never regretted.

Mom and Dad met for the first time the very next day after she arrived with her aunt and uncle. A year and a half later, on Sept. 28th, 1918 they were married at St. Emile's Church in Legal. It was a triple wedding ceremony at which two other couples were married. They were Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Beauchamp and Mr. and Mrs. George Hamel. That same fall they had planned to visit Mom's parents in Ottawa for their "honeymoon", but the crop of wheat which would have paid for the trip was hit by a killing frost thus making it impossible for that year. It took 25 years before they were able to make that trip.

Mom and Dad lived on the farm for the first few years they were married. When it came time for the older children to start school, they moved into the



hamlet of Vimy. Our actual school district was Elk Park which was too far to walk for beginners.

While in Vimy, Dad had the agency John Deere and Rock Oil Co., doing quite well for a time, also continuing with farming his land. In the 1930's farmers were finding themselves unable to pay for the machinery they had purchased and rather than suffer too much of a loss, Dad wisely decided to move his family back to the farm, which he did in 1935. With the huge gardens Mom planted and with the usual animals raised on the farm, we never suffered from lack of good wholesome food. I doubt if the younger children even realized there was a depression on other than wearing lots of hand-me-down clothes and if we were lucky something new once in awhile, usually home-sewn.

When Mom and Dad returned to the farm they engaged in mixed farming, raising cattle, hogs and chickens etc. There were always a lot of cows to milk and everyone of us had to learn how to milk them as soon as we were big enough.



Elie Sabourin, Edmond Sabourin, Timothee and Corinne Sabourin, (second wife).

When Dad was finished threshing his own crop, he and his crew would do custom-threshing for neighbours or whoever hired him. We have heard many amusing stories of those days where in some places they were treated like kings and in others anything was good enough for the threshing gang. There was one place in particular where some of the men wouldn't go in for meals but sat outside smoking while the ones with stronger stomachs took their chances. Dad threatened to quit unless they served better food. Until a new cook was hired, Mom had to make a huge lunch every night when the men got home. During the Second World War soldiers from Eastern Canada were sent west to help with the harvesting. Some had never been on a farm before and although they soon "learned the ropes", they were hilarious at times.

Dad was only 12 years old when he lost his mother in 1908. Alone with young children to raise, Grandpa allowed an aunt and uncle to take the two youngest children, Ernest and Yvonne. They were brought up in the United States and for years lost touch with the other members of their family. Remembering the time they attended school at the convent in Morinville, they started making inquiries as to the whereabouts of their brothers and sisters. Finally, in 1952 returning from a trip to Alaska, Uncle Ernie who went by the name of Ernest Chenier, made further inquiries in Morinville and was able to locate Dad. It was a very joyous occasion for the two brothers who hadn't seen each other for 43 years. That same year he was also reunited with his sister Yvonne who lived in Los Angeles. Aunt Yvonne and Uncle Ernie also found out that two sisters lived in Sudbury, Ontario and one, Mrs. Alex Parent, lived in Clyde, Alberta. Another brother, Alcide, who farmed in the Peace River district near Bluesky, died in 1925 from gunshot wounds received from a de-ranked neighbour.

Grandpa Sabourin remarried a Miss Zoe Chaput and they had one son, Edmond. When he grew up, Uncle Ed as we called him, helped farm the land with his father, which was located east and north of Vimy. Eventually he became the owner of that land. Grandma Zoe Sabourin died on January 12, 1935. In 1936 Grandpa went back to Ontario to visit his two daughters and two brothers who lived in Quebec. While there, he suffered a heart attack and died at the age of 74. He is buried in the Mont Laurier cemetery.

Having lost two children in infancy, Mom and Dad raised a family of four boys and five girls; all of whom are married except one.

Paul is the eldest and is married to Jean Yustychyn (nee Kostiniuk). They farm in the Vimy district and Paul has been in the seed-cleaning business for 40 years.

Ernest is married to Clara Haack. They have one son and two daughters and one grandson. Ernie has been in the construction business for many years and also farms.

Rita is married to Gordon Cannard and they have a family of five boys and two girls, also 12 grandchildren. They live in the Vimy district and run a large mixed farming operation.

Anita was married to Adeodat Gingras; they had 3 sons and 2 daughters. Adeodat passed away in 1971. Anita is now married to Emil Chvojka and they reside in Westlock.

Alcide married Yolande Gingras, they had one son and 2 daughters. Yolande died June 15, 1961. He later married Aline Pagé. They have 2 daughters and one son and 6 grandchildren. Alcide has also been in



Sabourin family, 1943. Back row: Ernie, Yvette, Anita, Joseph, Corinne, Paul, Rita and Alcide. Front row: Elaine, Richard and Pauline.

construction for many years and farms in the Vimy area.

I come next, and live on the original farm with Mom. I received all my schooling in Vimy and worked for A.G.T. for 15 years.

Elaine is married to Frank Petryshyn. They farm east of Dapp and have a family of 2 sons and 2 daughters, plus 4 grandchildren.

Pauline is married to Adam Petryshyn, and they reside on an acreage near the City of Edmonton. Adam has been a city employee for many years. They have 3 sons and 1 grandson.

Richard is married to Georgina Kramps. Their family consists of 1 son and 4 daughters. They now live east of Vimy and operate Westlock Sand and Gravel.

I remember my Dad as being a kind man who would never refuse to help a friend or neighbour. He was a gentle man whose great love for his wife and children shall always be remembered by those he left behind. He passed away suddenly in July, 1953. Mom still resides on the family farm and although in her eighties, likes gardening, tending to her flowers, and enjoys the peaceful atmosphere of country living.

### **Mrs. Eva St. Jean** from "The Hub" July 31, 1979

Mrs. Eva St. Jean is celebrating a birthday this week. On August 1, Mrs. St. Jean of Westlock, will be 97 years old. That's something special — and so is Mrs. St. Jean.

In an interview with the Hub last week Mrs. St. Jean, who still manages her household, does her housework and a little of the gardening, said that although she gets tired more quickly than she did a few years ago, she "does a little bit every day, and gets it done."



Eva St. Jean.

Originally from Windsor, Ontario, Mrs. St. Jean came to Alberta in 1887 at the age of five. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Legasse who with their children came to the west. They came to Calgary by train, and from there went north to Edmonton in a wagon with a team of horses.

Mrs. St. Jean recalled that at the time her family came to Edmonton there was no bridge over the North Saskatchewan River, and that those who wished to cross from Strathcona (the south side) into Edmonton had to do so by ferry.

The family passed through Edmonton to St. Albert where they met up with Mrs. St. Jean's brother, Louis Legasse, who had taken up a homestead in St. Albert in 1886 and who married Mrs. M. Bertrand there.

Mrs. St. Jean came to the Westlock area in 1914, where her first husband (J. E. Campbell) and she took up homesteading three miles east and six miles north of Westlock, near Pibroch.

Her account of how she met her first husband is told briefly but succinctly, "I met him in St. Albert"



Eva St. Jean, 97 on August 1st.



she says. "He was my teacher and I married him."

Her husband went overseas in the First World War, and after he returned the Campbells acquired another parcel of land from a Soldier's Grant he had received in the war. This land is still in the family, though the original homestead is not, son Hector Campbell said.

"Westlock was very small when we first came," Mrs. St. Jean says. Clyde was larger then, so we usually went to Clyde or else to Pibroch."

Mr. Campbell passed away in 1928, and for the next seventeen years Mrs. St. Jean stayed on the homestead alone or with her children.

"Hector stayed with me a few years, but then he was away for about three years and I did the work myself," she says, matter of factly. "He came back for a couple of years, and then got married — then I was on my own again."

After seventeen years of being of her own, Mrs. St. Jean met and married her second husband, Charles (Charlie) St. Jean. They continued to farm and work the homestead until 11 years ago when they moved to Westlock. Mr. St. Jean passed away approximately a year ago.

Asked what activities she'd liked doing best over the years, Mrs. St. Jean just laughed and said, "I've had to like doing everything. On the farm I had to do everything — cooking, sewing, housework, cleaning — and I still do it," she said. "I used to enjoy knitting and cribbage as long as my eyes were good," she continued, "but I can't see to read now, and I liked gardening."

Granddaughter-in-law, Emilia Campbell, said Mrs. St. Jean still loves gardening, and this year planted some of the potatoes in the garden.

"I still get outside in the garden, though not that much," Mrs. St. Jean said. "I've slowed down."

In subsequent conversation, Mrs. St. Jean said she still gets around Westlock.

"I'm really proud of it — it's a big town," she says emphatically. "I think it's wonderful."

"The people are nice and the town is nicer, except it's growing the wrong way. It's all going east, not west."

Mrs. St. Jean has had a long life and confided that she was "somewhere around 75 or 80" when she first went to the hospital. "I've been healthy and I don't have any aches or pains or arthritis."

She accredits her hardiness and healthiness to the country — to the land itself, perhaps. "I've been in this country long enough. I got tough," she says. She just might be right!

## The Samuel Sampson Family

by Myrtle Jack

In 1932 Samuel and Elizabeth Sampson arrived in Clyde, where they remained for the rest of their lives.

Samuel Richard Sampson was born in 1878 to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Richard Sampson of Loelock, England. When he was five years old he came with his parents and four younger sisters to Port Hope, Ontario, where he grew up.

He moved west to Winnipeg, where he met and married Elizabeth Hudson in 1902. In 1908 they decided to move further west, so he registered on a homestead in Altario, Alberta. The next year the family moved. By this time there were three young children, Annie, Carl and Clare. Travel was no small undertaking in those days. First they went to Macklin, Saskatchewan from Winnipeg. The railway ended at Macklin. The last forty miles to Altario they did by covered wagon.



Wedding photo of Samuel and Elizabeth (nee Hudson) Sampson, October 29th, 1902.

The years at Altario were busy for the young pioneering couple. Samuel broke the land with four oxen, and built his first house out of sod. As he improved the farm he replaced the oxen with horses and built a nice frame home. He hauled freight until the railroad came, then helped build CPR Depots and section houses. He served on the first school board. In 1923 he became a founding member of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Elizabeth, too, was busy. Now they had three more children, Don, Samuel Richard and Mary (they had two sons named Samuel Richard, but both died). In addition to taking care of the home and children, Elizabeth helped with the farm work. She also became well known as a practical nurse, and as the community maternity nurse she worked with the local doctor, assisting at many births.

However, the dry years took their toll. In 1924 grain planted in the spring was not up in July. The Sampsons decided to leave. They sold their stock and their machinery and moved to Spurfield on Lesser Slave Lake. Samuel worked at a lumber mill. Their elder daughter, Annie, met and married George Jack of Clyde.

The Sampson household gradually became smaller as the three boys, Carl, Clare and Don, grew up and left home. Samuel, Elizabeth and their younger daughter, Mary, moved to Clyde in 1932. Here Mary attended high school. In 1935 she married David Samis. The Samis family first lived in Namao, then farmed at Clyde. After David's death in 1955, Mary moved to Westlock.



Sampson family, L to R: at back, Annie, Elizabeth and Samuel. Front: Mary, Don, Claire and Richard.

Samuel and Elizabeth continued to make Clyde their home. They rented a farm south of Clyde. Elizabeth gained a reputation as a practical and maternity nurse. When they retired they moved into Clyde. In their sunset years they lived in a house with a huge garden where they raised quantities of beautiful vegetables and spectacular flowers. Elizabeth died in 1956 and Samuel in 1961.

### **Syd and Myrtle Sands Dr. and Mrs. S. H. Sands by Myrnie Boyd**

Syd and Myrtle Sands came to Westlock in 1926 from Sydney, Australia, with Roley who was born in

1923. In 1927, Syd (their second son) was born at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. In 1929, Myrnie was brought into the world by Dr. Henderson and the nuns at the Immaculata Hospital, Westlock.

While in Westlock, Dr. Sands was a member of the Legion Curling Club, Skating Rink Committee and took tickets at the Fair. I remember my Dad pulling me on the sleigh to go skating at the old arena. Mother was a member of the Book Club, Curling Club and went to the grand teas held before the war. She attended many school functions and one in particular I remember, when Miss Hughes had a Japanese tea at school and we all brought our mothers and wore kimono and drank tea and ate rice.



Dr. and Mrs. Sands.

Roley joined the R.C.A.F. when he was eighteen and served as an air gunner overseas. After returning from the war he worked for the C.N.R., and while he was at North Battleford, Saskatchewan, he met and married Dot. Their son was Roderick Clifford. He later took up barbering and worked in Calgary for a number of years.

Syd went into the bank and was at Revelstoke. He tried skiing there in the days when you tied ropes onto your skis and climbed the mountain, then dug



through the snow to an opening to a cabin through the roof. You then stayed there overnight and skied down again in the morning. He settled in Calgary with his wife Louise, and they have three daughters; Myrnie (Malvin), Debbie, Shelley and a son Robert Sydney. He has been with the Workman's Compensation Board for over twenty years.

Myrnie took a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics at the University of Alberta and married Ken Boyd and made homemaking her career. They had five children: Penny Boyd Thulin, who has a son Jesse; Jimmy Boyd (deceased December, 1968); Lisa Boyd Burles; Nancy Boyd Jensen who has two children Sonia and Paul; and last but not least, John, who has shone like a bright penny for us all along. He'll be entering the U of C in Physical Education this fall and hopes to be a Phys. Ed. teacher.

Myrtle and Syd left Westlock in 1949 for Victoria, B.C. Dad retired and did a lot of lawn bowling and Mother attended many auction sales.

Mother passed away in 1961 and is buried in Victoria. Dad left for Australia shortly after this and died in 1974.

## The Mike Scabars of Clyde by Mary Scabar

Mike was born in Bawlf in 1905, and lived at Round Hill on a farm until he was 22 years of age. Then he worked for the Searle Grain Company, and also did trucking in the district. Mary Welk was born at Round Hill in 1907. She and Mike were married July 6, 1929, the year the great Depression began.

Jobs were hard to get. Mike went to Leduc and trucked a load of furniture for a family to Athabasca. Stopping in Clyde for lunch, he met a friend who told him of a garage job with Abel Nelson, assuring Mike that it was a town with a future. So Mike decided to give it a try, and he and Mary took up residence there.

Throughout the depression years it was tough going, but Mike was an ambitious guy always ready to tackle any job. He hauled lumber from Baptists Lake for Albert Nelson. After that he rented the Livery Barn, did janitor work at the Bank, and hauled mail twice a week to Westlock. He drayed around town, and plowed gardens, and finally became an agent for North Star Oils in Clyde. Draying business slowed down as more people began buying cars and trucks for their own use. Mike gave up the Livery Barn. He took over the Massey Harris Implement agency from Johnny Rogers in 1942. Also he became a grain buyer for Alberta Pacific Grain Company in 1943, and had this job for the next six years. Louis Welk, returning from overseas, bought into the Massey Harris business.



The Scabar family and the Joe Hess family of Clyde.

Mike and Mary belonged to St. Patrick's Church, and took an active part in church affairs. Father Sullivan, the Parish Priest, was a great spiritual leader, and provided food for the mind as well as the spirit. He was also a great help in coaching young people in hockey as well as sports generally in the Clyde Community. Of the Scabar's two children, Loretta was a teacher for 3 years before marrying Frank Dalziel, a R.C.M.P. Officer. They moved to B.C. where they presently live with their family of 1 girl and 5 boys.

Larry finished his schooling in Camrose, took a course in Radio Technology in Toronto. When Radio



Clyde Businessmen. Harry East, Pool Grain; Louis Welk, Massey-Harris Agent; Mike Scabar, Alberta Pacific Agent.

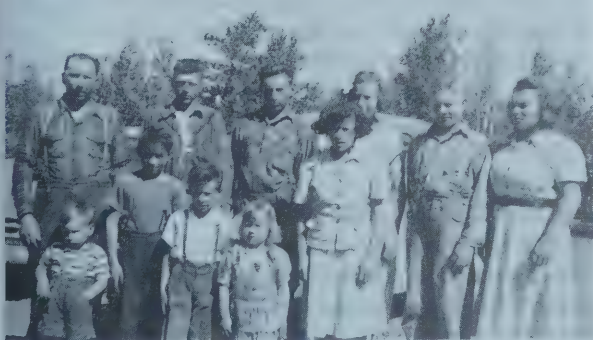
and Television came to Camrose. He worked with Alberta Government Telephones, took up Cable work, and spent 10 years down East. While there he married a girl from Victoria. They have three children — two girls and a boy. In 1973 Larry and family moved to Perth, Australia, where he was employed by Cable and General Electric. They returned to Canada in August 14, 1983. Mike and Mary made a trip to Australia in 1977 enjoying the trip and the country very much.

Mike sold his Clyde Implement business to John Langford in 1949 and moved to Camrose September 6, 1950. Mike worked for Massey Harris Company as a blockman, and then as a District Manager. He retired in 1970, and in his spare time did a lot of fishing. He had been a great curler in Clyde. Mike and Mary celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 6, 1979, with all their family present. Mike passed away August 21, 1980, aged 75 years. He had been presented with Alberta's 75th Anniversary gold medal. Mary presently lives in Camrose.

## Jacob Schlachter Family

by Jake Schlachter

My Grandfather and Grandmother came to Canada from Russia in 1889, and took up a homestead at Balgonia, near Regina, Saskatchewan. They had a family of two boys and four girls, the eldest boy being Vincent, who eventually became my father, having married Catherine Myer in 1896. They had ten children, seven girls and three boys. I was born in 1905 in Balgonia, which at that time was in the North West Territories.



Jacob Schlachter family 1953. Jacob, Eva, Richard, Leon, Jack, Loretta, Shirley, Vincent, Wayne, Fay, Arthur and Jerry.

When I was 24, I left Balgonia and came to Lethbridge, Alberta, where I met Eva Kessler. We were married in 1931, in Lethbridge. In 1932, we decided we would take up a homestead, so we set out for Hoadley, Alberta, about 450 km northwest of Lethbridge. We started the long trek with horses and

wagons, herding the cattle along with us. My wife's folks and her brother accompanied us, and we left Lethbridge on May 15, 1932, arriving at Hoadley three months later, on August 15, 1932. As those were hard times, we milked our cows night and morning, as we travelled, and made butter from the cream. As we got close to the Hobbema Indian Reserve, our women were making butter and some of the Indians noticed this. We also had quite a lot of potatoes, more than we thought we would need. The Indians asked us whether we would trade with them for some flour and some tea, which they had plenty of. This sounded like a good deal to us, so we traded some butter and potatoes for two hundred pounds of flour and ten pounds of tea! We had a small team of broncs with us, real mean ones which would kick, bite and strike every chance they got. The Indians wanted them real badly, even though we told them what they were like. After much dickering, they offered us a team of big blacks which we accepted, providing they gave us the harness too, as ours would never fit a team that size. They agreed, and the trade was made, both sides being well satisfied!



Jacob Schlachter outfit when the folks, Johnnie and Jack moved from the south.

We had some turkeys along with us and one hen started to lay eggs, which we kept for setting. Soon there were enough to make setting worthwhile, but the only safe place for the hen to set was in the washing machine. We fixed it up for her and removed the lid so that she could get in and out. In due time, every egg hatched, much to our amazement. Now it became necessary to provide a "run" for the poults, so we fixed up a kind of small corral out of boards which held them until we arrived at our new home.

We lived on the homestead until 1939, practically all through the "Depression", but were barely able to make a living. I went to a school teacher who was teaching at Hoadley, and he said he had a farm at Boyle that he would like to rent out. I agreed to rent it





A pet moose by Jake Schlachter's house, 1933.

from him, and once again we started out on the trail. We rigged up a tent on a hay rack and herded the cattle to Boyle in 1939. We lived there until 1944, when we decided to come to Westlock. I purchased a farm near Westlock from Mr. Tie, who was working in the M.D. in Boyle.

Our first child was only three months old when we left Lethbridge, but over the years our family increased to ten, seven boys and three girls.

## The John Schmidt Story by Stanley R. Coates

Almost one hundred years ago, in November 1882, John Schmidt was born in Reglasfoh, Bavaria. His parents later wanted him to train for the Lutheran Ministry, but he had other ideas, so he left home while in his early twenties, and went to live on his uncle's dairy farm in Wisconsin, U.S.A. He didn't stay there very long, as he was a rather restless young man. He got a job in a mine for a while, then drifted into Butte, Montana for a few months, finally ending up with a job at the Hudson's Bay Company in Yorkton, Sask. as a delivery boy. He and a friend were fired one morning for coming in late, having been watching a Dukhobor nudist parade, so John went back to Denver, Colorado. While there, he met Mike McEvoy and they became good friends. They figured Canada was a better place to live in, so they



John Schmidt Garage directly behind the hotel, 1929. John Schmidt, Bob Clapper, Charlie Brown, George Baxandall and Walter Guest.

travelled north to Edmonton. This was in 1912. Mike filed on a homestead about six miles south of Westlock, and John got a job on a neighbouring farm. In 1914 he worked on the Bert Bruder farm, staying there for about a year.

Early in 1916 John finally seemed to settle down, moving into the village of Westlock, and fixing up some old cars for Alec Marshall, who ran a coach service between Westlock, Clyde, Barrhead and Neerlandia. Besides keeping the cars operating, John often drove settlers to their homesteads and transient workers to the logging camps.

There was a bankruptcy sale of shop machinery in 1918, and John bought all the stock and took over the running of the machine shop, which at that time was in a building owned by Mr. Hobart, and later became Doherty's Garage. For ten years he served the people of Westlock, "fixing" anything that was broken or wouldn't run, then he and his partner, Bo St. John, moved into a garage that was owned by Mr. J. Wodelet situated on Main Street.

After about another ten years in that location, he moved his machinery into the building on 107th Street, (which I believe was unofficially called "Railway Avenue" then). This building was Ted Leake's Garage.

John's prowess as a "fixer" continued to improve, and it was rarely, if ever, that he was stumped. Whether it was a child's wagon or a complicated piece of machinery that needed his attention, "Old John" could make it good as new. He was liked and respected by everyone in the Westlock District, and was still working full time even when he was over eighty years old. By full time, I don't mean an eight-hour shift, for John was willing to work far into the night to repair a threshing machine part so that a harvest crew would not have to be idle the next day.

He was a man who was truly dedicated to his work, and to me it is a privilege to have known him. He would often get to talking about his younger days,

and the many interesting experiences he had, which moulded his character into the man he turned out to be.

**A Tribute to John Schmidt**  
**by Archie Hollingshead**

In a letter to the Editor of the Westlock News.  
Dear Sir,

In not being present to include a word of esteem on the recent salutation of John Schmidt, I would feel remiss in not expressing personal greetings and good wishes to our genial "Westlock Old Timer." Those of us who have known John these many years, have taken him and his quiet ways for granted. We relied on John and his mechanical skill for special requirements. With his torch and his lathes and his files he could repair and refit any worn or broken machine. If a part was beyond restoration he could make a duplicate.

I first met John in the fall of 1920. He was with the Abbot boys in their garage on Second Street. John was the town's first auto mechanic. I seem to half remember hearing his first employment in Westlock was with Alec Marshall.

To say that John Schmidt has been an asset to the community is an understatement. He has been a dedicated man to his bench, available on any day and at any hour to accomodate the public, and although not a social aspirant, John has been a social benefactor to people. Outwardly and inwardly, John Schmidt has been humble and kindly.

Behind the facade of his working clothes and bewildered countenance there is a scholarly mind with an understanding of basic values. His interest, his hope, has been for a better world. John Schmidt has not sought riches or position. He was content to remain true to principals, believing the rendering of service was his Master's bidding.

To those of us considerate enough to observe John, we saw a friendly but reticent man, un-indulgent to bodily comforts, indefatigably standing by to respond to the call of duty. We saw him wifeless and childless, forbearing within himself the amenities and pleasures of life. Although he revitalized many people's cars he never owned or drove one. I have had numerous conversations with John, some of them touching on subjects other than his work. I do not recall any ill-feeling expressed against any man; I do not remember any sympathy-seeking on his own behalf. His quiet tone, his modulated laugh confirmed a placid mind not lacking in a sense of humor. I have not inferred John was a sad or lonely man, indeed I have sensed he is at peace with himself and the world, modestly proud of his accomplishments and boyishly happy to be one of Westlock's pioneers.

John Schmidt can be catalogued as a young immigrant who has made good, who has given much and taken little in the conquest of taming the west. To me he has attained a stature of ten feet tall!

**The Samuel Schmode Family**  
**by Irene Schmode**

Sam and his brothers and sister came to the district about 1916 when his mother married their step-father, Mr. Borm. They all thought the world of this step-dad and always called him Pa. They all worked hard on the farm clearing it and breaking the land. In 1928 they bought a threshing machine and Sam worked as spike pitcher. They threshed for many farmers around. Some years they would thresh for up to 22 days.



Sam and Irene Schmode family. Back row, L to R: Earl, Valerie, Stanley, Sally and Arnold. Seated: Sam and Irene.

Sam and his brother Bill played for a lot of dances in the community. Sam also played baseball for the Springfield team.

In November, 1937, Sam married Irene O'Brien. They were married in the United Church Manse by Rev. Moss. As we came out of the manse, Mr. Ashby's milk wagon was backed up to the step and we had to get in it. Then they proceeded to take us up the main street and down some of the back alleys until finally Charlie Marshall, who was running Mr. Gross's pool hall, came out and gave us a cone of ice cream. Then we were taken back to the manse where Charlie Kramps was waiting with his car, as we had asked him to be our driver for the day. He was new to the district and seemed such a nice quiet fellow, that we thought anyone who was going to play jokes on us would not know him well enough to ask him to do anything. So, when we got in the car, all tied up with cowbells, tin cans and old shoes, we thought we were headed back to O'Briens for the reception. Instead, we were taken through the village of Clyde and then



down through Vimy, where they took the elevator road and went up through one elevator and another, but the last one had a load of grain in it so it had to be bypassed. Now the ladies who were looking after the meal couldn't figure out what had happened, because we were married at 11 o'clock and they were to have dinner ready at noon, but with all this, we arrived back by two o'clock.

Sam had built a log house on the SE¼-24-58-26-W4, with logs he had hauled from up by Round Up. Here we raised five children; Arnold, Stanley, Sally, Earl and Valerie. They are all married and we have twelve grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Sam would work out in the bush at lumber camps when the times were hard and later, on the oil rigs during the winter. I would stay home doing the chores and anything that went with winter on a farm, besides looking after the family.



Five generations of Pat and Jessie O'Brien. Mrs. Jessie O'Brien (Great-great-grandmother), Irene Schmode (Great-grandmother), Arnold Schmode (Grandfather), Mona (Mother) and baby Cindy.

On our 40th wedding anniversary, the children, friends and neighbours put on a party for us and guess what? Charlie Kramps and his wife came and drove us again to the party!

Sam had a homestead at Hondo where he had built a house, but after the passing of his step-father, he built the log house here in Vimy district so that he could help his mother. The house he built in Hondo was sold and it is now a church. It stands close to the No. 2 highway in the Hondo district. He also sold his homestead there in 1973.

When I (Irene) was attending school at Elk Park, I did the janitor work there for ten cents a day. This work consisted of looking after the furnace, sweeping, dusting, cleaning blackboards and keeping the windows clean. The water also had to be hauled as there was no well at the school. This was a big job on hot summer days as there were about forty to forty-eight pupils in the school. I also worked as a hired girl for \$5.00 a month in 1934, for neighbours. There were no washing machines or other conveniences then. Clothes were washed on a scrub-board, ironing done with sad irons and bread was also baked, butter churned and all the rest that went with housework.

During the first years of our marriage we had some hard times, as the "Depression" was on, but we weathered the storm and, of course, we had some good times also. We were also blessed with our children and grandchildren. We have many good friends and wonderful neighbours to enjoy now, during our later years.

### Katharina Schreiner

In 1928 Johann and Katharina Schreiner and their five children immigrated from Yugoslavia to Highridge, Alberta, where they operated a mixed farm until their retirement in 1959, when they moved to Vimy.

Johann passed away in 1963.

Katharina is still living alone in her own home and takes good care of herself. She enjoys fairly good health for her years.

### Matt Schreiner

In 1943 John Schreiner of Highridge, purchased five quarters of land from Pete Murray; a quarter for each of his sons.

In 1952 Matt married Barbara Colbourne. They continued a mixed farming enterprise and increased their land to four quarters. Of this union, two sons were born, Garry and Chris.

Garry took his grade one schooling in Vimy, then grades two to six in Pickardville, followed by grades seven to twelve at Westlock. After graduating, Garry entered N.A.I.T. and took a two year course in Gas Technology. After graduating from N.A.I.T. he worked for four years at Fox Creek. In the fall of 1973 he married Denise Fagnon of Vimy. After working four years at Fox Creek they moved to Sarnia, Ontario, where they stayed for two and a half years, when the lure of overseas work took them to Bethovia, Algeria, where they remained for two years. They have since returned to Canada and live in the village of Vimy. Garry is at present working at Redwater but the desire to return overseas is still there.

Chris took his first four years of school at Pickardville and the rest of his schooling in Westlock. After graduation he started to work for the U.F.A. Supply Depot in Westlock and also helped on his father's farm. In July of 1983 he plans to marry Donna Pollard of Westlock.

Matt and Barbara are still active in their mixed farming operation, with Matt enjoying his hobby of fishing and Barbara working part time in the Westlock Co-op Bakery. They both are looking forward to their retirement in a few years.

### The Bruce Scott Family

The Bruce Scott family arrived in Westlock in December of 1956 from farming in the Rumsey, Alberta district. Bruce was representative for the Veterans' Land Act in the area beginning at the fifth meridian and continuing west to include the Barrhead area.

When Bruce died in 1957, the family continued to make its home in Westlock. Thelma again took up her teaching profession and in 1958 began teaching in the Westlock High School. She continued teaching English here until she left teaching in the mid seventies. She still makes her home in Westlock.

The Scott family consists of three boys; Nelson, James and Donald. They received the greater part of their education in the Westlock schools, where they

were active in school bands, sports and clubs. In the community they took part in Cubs and Scouts, hockey, swimming and water sports, and church groups. After completing high school, they all went on to further education; Nelson and Jim went to the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Education and were "Stevites", Don went to Grant McEwan College and SAIT.

After University Nelson and June Keino from Thorhild were married and went to Fort McMurray, where they both taught. Nelson is still in the Fort McMurray system as an Assistant Superintendent of schools. June has left teaching for the present and is busy being a mother and chauffeur for their children, Pamela Heather and Graham Bruce. June has taken more education in library science and Nelson has taken his Master of Education.

When Jim finished university he went to Grande Cache to become director of aquatics for their indoor pool and coach of their swim club. He has been active in community work: a member of the volunteer fire department and ambulance service, director of Boys' and Girls' clubs, Elks, and member of the golf club. He has begun more education, also, with courses in coaching through Concordia University in Montreal, taken in East Germany and China. He aims at a master's degree in coaching.



Donald Scott — age 2 years.



Nelson Scott — age 8 years. Jim Scott — age 5 years.



Don attended the Southern Alberta Institute of Art taking the course Radio and Television Arts. On graduation he spent the summer working with Access, then went to Regina, where he worked as a camera man at CKCK-TV. After two years there he moved to CFAC-TV Calgary again as a camera man. Since being in Calgary he has had many interesting assignments, the most memorable was as a camera man in Baden Baden, Germany, when Calgary made its bid for the 1988 Winter Olympics. Don is beginning to plan for more education and a future in production and directing, and in cinematography.

## Harry Scott

by Julia Bannister

Harry Scott emigrated from England to Ontario, Canada in 1910 at the age of fifteen. He joined the Canadian Army in 1914 and served in France. He spent hospital leave in England, and while he was there he met Winifred and they became engaged. Harry spent many years in hospital in Canada after the war.



Harry Scott family. Back row: Eileen, Julia, Sheila and Patsy. Front row: Robert, Winifred and Harry.

In 1923 Winifred emigrated from England and they were married in McDougall United Church in Edmonton. They farmed first at South Edmonton, then at Fort Saskatchewan. In 1931 they rented Brabazon's farm one mile west of Lett's Ferry, the SW ¼-23-60-1-W5, in the Riverdale district.

They had three little girls, Julia, Eileen and Sheila. In June of that year their barn burned down one night, with the horses and a baby calf inside.

One stormy night, one month later, my sister Pat was born. Daddy ran with the lantern half a mile to fetch Mrs. Jarvis (Ruth) Clesson to attend to Mum and the baby — the baby was born by the time they

got back. Dr. Verreau, from Barrhead, came one week later, when the roads had dried up. He said he couldn't have done any better, if he had been there. Mum used to tell how the Allen children brought a pail of saskatoons so they might see the baby.

In September 1931, I started school at Riverdale (3½ miles away). Miss Molly Webb (later Robins) was my teacher. Wilson, Harold and Jean Allen and I walked in good weather. Mr. Kidney took us across the river on the ferry. We used to sit on the apron and dangle our legs. One day I lost my lunch kit (lard pail!). We must have given him grey hairs. In the winter, Gerry Dyk had Julia Jameison boarding with them and she drove the horse and cutter, and took Betty Dyk and me to school. We usually had twenty "hangers-on" by the time we got to school.



Winifred and Harry Scott, Silver Wedding Day, 1948.

In April, 1932, we moved to Sunniebend, buying a farm from George Plain, Sr., one and a half miles north of Sunniebend Bridge. Neighbours Stanley Allen and Gerry Dyk helped build a shack to live in before we moved up. Some turkeys were left behind and the neighbours had a turkey shoot that fall. Blake Letts was my first teacher at Sunniebend.

A son, Robert, was born in 1936. There was the promise of good times with the new Aberhart Government.

The big flood of 1944 was too much for Harry, along with his poor health. There was no harvest to take off that fall as the farm had been completely covered with flood water for several days in June.

The family moved to Edmonton where Harry worked until his retirement. Winifred was Secretary at McDougall United Church until her retirement. Winifred died in 1976, and Harry in 1978. They made many friends while living in the Riverdale district.

I, Julia W. Bannister, am their oldest daughter.

## Mr. and Mrs. Herb Seibert and Family by "Herb"

I came out from Ontario after working in the Bank of Hamilton for a number of years. It was the spring of 1916 that I came to Edmonton. One of the first jobs I had was as a surveyor in the Lac La Biche region. One of the largest lakes in that area was named Seibert Lake after the Seibert family name.

Jerry Seibert and Sons bought land in the St. Albert district in the fall of 1916. I worked the land there with my family until 1922. At that time, in 1922, my ambition was to get out on my own. The move was accomplished by sleigh in the spring of 1923, the destination being the Pickardville District. I bought a half section of raw land the description being the east half of Section 5, Township 58, Range 26, West of the Fourth Meridian.



Herb Seibert with heavy team of horses in front of new barn, built 1943.



Herb Seibert with 1961 Pontiac car. Herb was 92 years old and still driving, Sept. 1980.

When I came up in '23 with my wife, Mrs. Ella Seibert, children Ruth, Vernon and Thelma, I rented Lorne McConaghy's house and land. In the fall of 1923, I worked with Charlie Tally's threshing crew on the steam thresher. I hauled water and pulled the separator. This machine required 24 men to operate. That year we threshed up until New Years Day. The spring of 1923 I started breaking land on the half section which I had purchased. We lived in a huge tent the summer of 1924 and also most of the fall, while building a house. We built the house with lumber off my own land, which we hauled 15 miles out to Munro's saw mill at George Lake. The log barn was built the same year. This was accomplished with the help from many very good neighbors. I broke the land with the help of my son, Vernon. We worked the land mostly with horses and breaking plough. It was



Seibert family, 1930. Front: Thelma, Pauline, Florine. Centre: Vernon, Ruth, Mrs. Seibert. At back: Mr. Seibert.



tough clearing and breaking then, compared with today's equipment, but the land was finally cleared. Vernon farmed with me on the half section until 1946 when he bought the quarter across the road, from Ralph Johnson, the land description being NW¼-4-58-26-W4. We farmed the three quarters together until 1954, when I sold my half section to Jack Taylor of Gibbons. He kept it for ten years, then sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Heriveau, who still own the property.

I was councillor for sixteen years for Hazelwood Municipality #579 of Pickardville. I am the only surviving member of the Hazelwood Municipal Council. I also served on the school board for the Vermilion Springs School District #1619. That's where all our children attended school. After relinquishing my position on the School Board, I served for a term on the Agricultural Board, which was, at that time, planning to build the seed cleaning plant at Morinville. My wife, Ella, was one of the first members of the Echo Hill Women's Institute. She suggested the name Echo Hill after the old Post Office.

My wife and I moved to Edmonton in 1956, leaving Vernon to farm his quarter. He sold his property to Myron Czech of Edmonton in 1980. Vernon is still residing on the farm, on an acreage that he kept.

The other children were four daughters: Ruth, the oldest, Thelma, Pauline and Florine — who are twin sisters. The twins were the only children born on the farm. The night of their birth was quite an experience for everyone involved. I had to walk two miles through 2-3 foot snow drifts to phone the Doctor from Echo Hill Post Office, on the 6th of February, 1926. I reached the doctor's office at Westlock, by phone, but the established doctor of the area, Dr. Henderson, wasn't in, so a young doctor came out in a model T Ford. He ended up getting lost and went quite a distance out of his way. I left a lighted lantern on the gate post and this is how the doctor finally found our place. Luckily he was in time and to everyone's surprise he delivered twins. It was quite an occurrence for the community. People came from miles around to see them.

The twins and our other two daughters left to live in Edmonton while in their late teens. They are all married, living in Edmonton, except Ruth who is in Calgary. My wife, Ella, passed away in 1968. Vernon's wife, Maxine, who was quite an active member with the Women's Institute, the Garden Club and the Church, also passed away in the year 1968.

I worked up until the year 1963 with the Alberta Government in the City of Edmonton. Since 1963 I have retired from the work force and reside in Edmonton. I miss my car, which I drove up until last year (1981) at 93 years of age. Even so, I still spend



Mr. and Mrs. Herb Seibert, 1967.

time taking care of my own home, garden and lawn. I am also active in the Church, Senior Citizens' activities and enjoy travelling.

I consider myself very fortunate to have my son and four daughters so close at hand, and being able to enjoy my 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

### Vernon Seibert

I was born in Edmonton on January 17, 1920 and am the only son of Herb and Ella Seibert. I have four sisters: Ruth, Thelma and twins Pauline and Florine.

We moved out to the Pickardville district in 1923



Vernon Seibert with "Prince and Ruby" a team he used for threshing.

where my father bought a half section of raw land, the E½-5-58-26-W4.

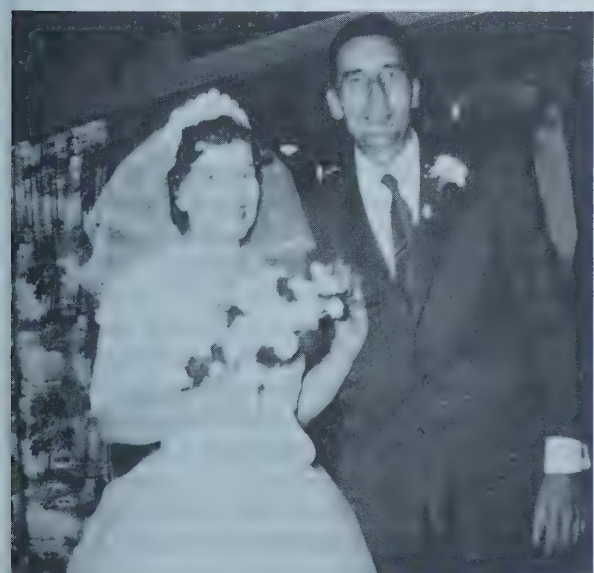
My education began and ended in the Vermilion Springs School when I graduated from grade eight in 1934. From then on I farmed with my Dad and in the meantime bought the NW¼-4-58-26-W4 that was previously owned by Ralph Johnson.



Herb and Ella Seibert family. Florine, Ruth, Pauline and Thelma. Son Vernon not pictured.

On October 21, 1956, Maxine Ross and I were married in Calgary. She enjoyed the farm — liked flowers — was a member of the Echo Hill Women's Institute and the local Garden Club — and the Busby United Church. Maxine passed away May 26, 1968 and is buried in the Busby cemetery.

I sold my farm but kept the home site. My special interests are reading, radio, travelling and I am developing a growing interest in antiques.



Vernon and Maxine Seibert October 21, 1956.

Some of the great changes that have taken place in this area during my lifetime are in roads, in machinery and in what has been made possible by the coming of electricity.

Something I will remember for as long as I live will be the first time I heard a radio. Mr. Vanatter, a neighbor, invited me to listen to his crystal set. When I donned the earphones and heard voices from Salt Lake City, I couldn't believe it was really possible. The amazement and wonder of it all dumbfounded me. I still remember the feeling that came over me!

### **Clifford and Valerie Seminiuk** **by Valerie Seminiuk (nee Schmode)**

I was born in 1958, the youngest of five children which Sam and Irene Schmode raised on their farm at Vimy, Alberta. There are a lot of fond memories of the farm. Harvest Time was my favorite time of year, especially before the combine came to our farm.

In the early days bundles were made with the binder and then stooked in the field to dry. Next we would pick the bundles from the field and thresh them. The threshing machine made some beautiful straw stacks which were a lot of fun to slide down, even though we were told not to be sliding off the straw stack!

The rest of the family will probably not agree that harvest was the best time of year, as long hard hours of work had to be put in. As I was too young to help with all the hard work, I had a lot of fun getting in everyone's way.

My father gave me a chance at the age of six to raise my own bull calf. By this time my brothers and sister had left home to spread their wings. My calf was my playmate. Anyone going into the barn yard had to pay attention to my calf. If not, they would get a bunt from behind!

My father was feeding the cattle one day, bent over to pick up a bale of hay and ended on the other side of the bale. You guessed; the calf got him from behind! Not paying attention!

After some discussion it was decided the calf had to go to market. I was taking accordion lessons and needed a new accordion. The money from the calf paid for part of my accordion.

My first two years of school were spent in Pickardville School. Grade one and two were in one room as was grade three and four in another and grade five and six in another.

My teacher for grade one and two was Mrs. Yeomans. To my surprise Mrs. Yeomans had also taught my mother in grade school.

In my third year of school Pickardville School was closed. I then attended Westlock School from Grade three to Grade twelve. I graduated with my



high School Diploma in 1977 and moved to Edmonton for work.

On July 1st, 1978 I entered the Westlock United Church to be united in marriage to Clifford Semeniuk of Theodore, Sask. Clifford and I have made our home in Edmonton. At present I am not working. On January 14th, 1982 we were blessed with a son Derrick Trevor so I am staying home being a homemaker.

## **Sewards Move to Westlock, 1934**

**by Earl Seward**

Years of dry summers, from 1928 on, discouraged Miles Seward so that he sold his farm at Strome in the spring of 1934 for the sum of \$20.00 per acre, the deal to take effect after the crop was taken off.

During the summer, my father, Miles, spent a lot of time travelling about Alberta looking for a new farm. He finally settled on a quarter section just north of Westlock, up the road on the east side of Westlock. The price was \$20.00 per acre, plus the use of a quarter section one mile west of town and a half mile north. I believe people by the name of McGregor lived at this location.

At the end of October, 1934, the family were moved off the old farm at Strome into a rented place for the winter, and in November, Dad and I left over land for Westlock. We had a load of equipment on a hay rack and sixty bushels of seed oats on a second wagon, four horses, and a pony and pinto mare following behind.

Travelling up the new gravelled highway #13, the wagon tires under the hay rack all came loose. We only got as far as Bawlf, about twenty miles, the first day. We stayed overnight at Bawlf, putting the wheels in the water tank to make them tighten up a bit.

The next day we made it to Camrose, and had to lay over for a day to get the blacksmith to tighten up all the steel rims on the wagon wheels. The next stop was at Hay Lakes, and the weather turned cold and snow started to fall. I will never forget driving along Whyte Avenue, across the High Level Bridge and up past the Alberta Legislature Buildings on a Saturday afternoon with the horses slipping on the ice, across to 102nd Street, east under the C.N. Railway, to a large livery stable. We stayed there three days during which time we traded off a horse, bought an old cook stove and put the hay rack on sleighs.

Crossing the Sturgeon River at St. Albert was quite an ordeal. We had to double up the teams to get up the St. Albert hill. The remainder of the trip was cold but uneventful.

Our first chore, when we got to the farm, was to prepare the old homestead shack for the winter. A

layer of tar-paper was put all over the outside and covered with shingles, which stopped most of the wind from blowing right through. The horses were comfortable in the old log barn, and our neighbour, George Beach, just across the road and the railroad track, was kind enough to let us use water from his trough.

We spent the winter cutting firewood in readiness for the next year, made a trip north for tamarac trees for fence posts, and spent a couple of weeks cutting brush on the road allowance to pay off the taxes. I also worked for the Lane boys, baling hay, at fifty cents a day, from daybreak to dark!

In the spring, Dad went back to Strome and brought back the livestock and household furniture in a freight car to Westlock station. Mother, Doris, Bob, Jack, Ronald and Leslie came up by passenger train. The neighbours brought in several teams and sleighs to carry our belongings to the farm and helped us settle into the house north and west of Westlock.

In the spring of 1935, I hired out to George Beach for the season at Twelve Dollars a month. We had seen no rain at Strome for years, and we saw nothing but rain during that first year at Westlock. My most vivid memory of that spring is a quick thunder storm during which lightning struck one of George Beach's large Holstein cows, killing her.

By the middle of July I had enough, and went back to Strome, where I worked on various farms until I joined the Navy in 1937.

The folks must have done alright in Westlock, for in a few years, Dad had a fair line of buildings on the quarter near to Westlock. Another lightning storm killed several of his horses which were pasturing further north, and that seemed to take the heart out of him. When I returned, after the war, Dad had sold most of the equipment and livestock, and moved to B.C. Mother carried on for a couple of years, and then sold the farm to George Beach, for \$9,000.00, I believe. I wonder what price it would bring today?

Mother and Dad had a few good years together, and both finally passed away in Victoria, B.C.

I am retired now from my position with Canada Packers and live in Weston, Ontario. Eugene is retired out in Victoria; Doris (Mrs. Carl Wist) lives on a farm in Westlock; Bob was a taxi driver in Edmonton, and was murdered on June 28th, 1981; Jack still farms near Tangent, in the Peace River area; Leslie is teaching school outside Ladner, B.C.; Ronald is in Toronto and Peter is teaching High School in Westlock.

Peter was born in 1938 at the Immaculata Hospital in Westlock, was educated at Hope, B.C. returning to Westlock to live.

I was not around Westlock long enough to get

acquainted with many people, but have enjoyed visiting there over the years, and am glad to see it grow into such a lovely town.

## **The Abel Shaver Family** **by Muriel Shaver**

The Shaver Family moved to Westlock in 1931, after spending many years in Saskatchewan. They lived in the Westlock area until 1935, when they purchased a farm at Hazel Bluff.

Abel Shaver passed away in 1941 and his son, Bernard, and family continued to operate the farm until 1966, when they moved back to Westlock. Mrs. Ferna Shaver, Sr., passed away in 1974. Their family consisted of three children; Bernard, Greta and Edith.

Bernard (Nard to all his friends) and his wife Muriel, had three children, one of which (a son) died in infancy. Bernice (Bunnie) is married to Dick Arth and lives in Westlock, and Calvin, who resides in Calgary.

Greta (Shaver) Kasawski had three children; Ferna Ewaschuck, who lives at Newbrook, Alberta, and Edwin and Theron, both of whom live in Edmonton.

Edith (Shaver) Jensen had two children, Murray and Karren Smith. Murray lives in Edmonton and Karren lives in Montreal, P.Q.

## **William Charles Shaw** **by Doris Sutherland**

William Charles Shaw was born in Sydney, Australia, and became a plasterer by trade. He decided to leave that country and see Canada. He worked at his trade for a while in New Zealand, then in San Francisco, in Saskatchewan and Alberta. In San Francisco he worked on many large buildings as this was after the earthquake in 1906.

He was a member of the Operative Plasterers International Association of the United States and Canada, and also a member of the Golden Gate Operative Plasterers.

Mr. Shaw decided to go farming and in 1908 he filed on a homestead in the Pickardville area. He worked very hard, built himself a shack, and began clearing land.

He was called upon to do plastering on many large buildings in Edmonton.

Several years later he married Mary Ann Mutch, a young woman he had met a few years before, in Saskatoon. Mary Ann had come over from Scotland to visit a brother, and was nursing in a hospital.

Together they built a house, got livestock and chickens, and always had a large garden. Many years later a daughter was born to them, their only child, Doris, who later became Mrs. Bruce Sutherland.

Mr. Shaw raised a large field of potatoes, so bought a potato planter and a potato digger, and hired neighbors and Indian people to help him pick up the potatoes, which he sold to local stores in Westlock and other places. He grew many fine crops of wheat, oats, barley, sweet clover and rape.

Many buildings were built on the farm. When Mr. Shaw decided not to keep milk cows anymore, he went into the hog business. He had a large hog barn built and, as always, his trade became useful; cement floors, cement walls and cement chimneys, etc.

Mr. Shaw now owned a lot of machinery, and went out threshing for folks near and far. In later years he owned a combine and stayed at home to do his harvesting. He always kept busy; sitting around was not his idea of living.

Mary Ann passed away very young and he was left to raise his daughter. When he decided to retire from farming, he still worked at his trade, getting more work than he could get to. He was still working when a severe stroke left him paralyzed on the left side. Determined to walk again, he did, but never regained the use of his left arm.

His daughter, son-in-law and three granddaughters always remember him, his ambition and his loyalty to his family.

Truly an ambitious and an adventurous man!

## **The Sherwin Story** **by Nick Sherwin**

My parents, Charles and Millicent Sherwin, their four children, Doris, Clifford, Donald and Percy (Nick), came to Canada in 1912. Father sailed from England on the "Empress of Ireland" (which sank on its return voyage) prior to the rest of the family, so as to establish a home somewhere in Western Canada. He arrived in April and proceeded to St. Boniface, Manitoba, for our first home. Mother and the four children sailed from England on the "Bohemian", arriving in Halifax in late August of that year. We stayed overnight in a hotel there, but before the night was over, we found our room was already occupied; it was alive with bed bugs, a great welcoming committee to Canada!

The next morning we proceeded west, and after a long, tedious trip, we arrived at St. Boniface, our new home, only to find it was a large tent, divided into rooms by sheets and blankets hung on ropes. With only a small stove for heat, our first home was anything but comfortable. The snow came early that year and it was used to bank up the sides of the tent.

In December, we moved to Winnipeg, into a house — what a pleasure! We lived in Winnipeg for six years. Father worked for the T. Eaton mail order department, and my brother Clifford, though only





Charles and Millicent Sherwin family. Doris, Clifford, Donald and Nick, taken in 1911.

twelve, worked in the biscuit room during the Christmas season for \$1.00 a day. He was told he could eat all the biscuits he wanted, but he was soon sick of them. One day there was a large Christmas cake brought into the room, and Cliff, wanting a change of diet, cut a large slice for himself, but alas, he was told his services were no longer required. In January of 1916, my mother passed away following an operation for appendicitis.

In July of 1918, we moved to Alberta, living in Edmonton until the spring of 1919, when in April of that year we moved to the Colchester district. Cliff worked for a neighbouring farmer. Doris, being the oldest, kept house. Donald and Nick attended the Colchester school, which was four miles south of Salisbury, which is now known as Sherwood Park.

There were not many acres under cultivation when we moved to the farm, so father decided to go into the market gardening business. Every Saturday we would take a load of vegetables to Edmonton to



The Sherwin family taken on Nick's wedding day, Dec. 1, 1936. Charles, Clifford, Doris, Donald and Nick.

sell at the farmers market. Some years we harvested as many as 1200 bushels of potatoes, 10,000 cabbages, five tons of carrots, plus hundreds of bushels of beets, parsnips, turnips, etc., So you see we were not idle in our youth.

In 1927 father remarried to Mrs. Louisa Donnelly, who had one child, Maisie, seven years of age. Mrs. Donnelly was one of the Adkins family who homesteaded in the Westlock district in 1905.

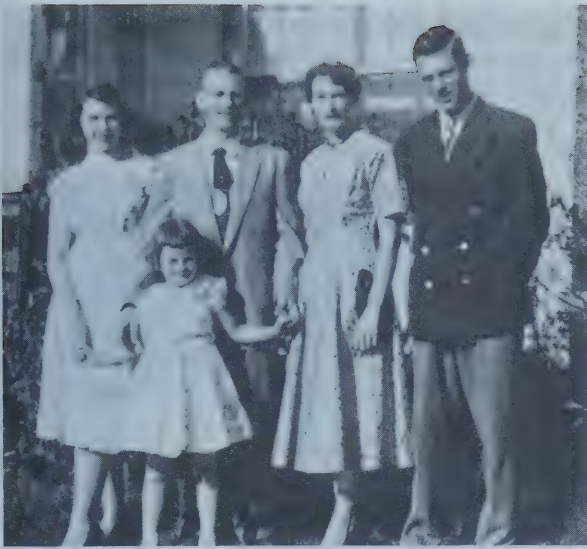
I must mention about Maisie and our old red rooster. You see, Donald and I had tormented this old bird so much that he had developed a vile temper. He was mean and vicious, and just waited to attack when least expected. When Maisie came to the farm he forgot all about we two boys, and turned all his attention to her. He chased her when she left for school and met her in the lane on the way home. He would outrun any human being. He would keep her cornered in the outhouse or any other building where she took refuge. She wondered why he didn't get into the stew-pot, but of course, his services were needed to increase the brood in the henhouse.

In November of 1928, the family, with the exception of Doris and Clifford who were working in Edmonton, came to Westlock and settled on the farm one and a half miles north of what is now the Golf Course.

Soon after coming to Westlock, Donald went to work for Mac McDougall. In 1933 he married Ina Gordon and they had four sons and one daughter. They later moved to Vancouver. Donald passed away on his 57th birthday, June 13, 1964.

I (Nick) stayed on the farm and married Rosa Stanley in 1936. We had three children; Douglas, Anne and Judy.

Douglas married Anne Selby in 1962. They had



Mr. and Mrs. Nick Sherwin and family. L to R: Anne, Judy, Nick, Rosa and Douglas.

two children; Lorrie and Larry. Douglas passed away from cancer in 1965 at the age of 27.

Anne married Ray Ryder, and they live in Edmonton. They had three children; Russell, Alan and Wendy.

Judy married Michael Wilson. They have two children; Cari and Kevin.

Maisie married George Platt and they have three children; Lawrence Patrick, Mary Anne and David.

Father passed away in 1949. Louisa stayed on the farm for a while, then bought a home in Westlock, and later moved to the Pembina Lodge. She passed away in November, 1981, at the age of 91 years.

Rosa and I stayed on the farm with our family, then in 1954, moved to Edmonton, where we stayed for 18 years. We sold the home farm to Rosa's brother, Barry Stanley, and bought a home in Edmonton. I worked as Zone Co-ordinator, Building Services Division, Physical Plant at the University of Alberta.

Many University students made our home their home while they attended University, most of them from the Westlock and Barrhead districts. To name a few, there were Jack and Linda Kinnaird, Harold Adair, Sharon Platt, Bertha Martin, Lynn Bruder, Fay Van Nieuvenhuyse, Sandra Lewko, and others.

We moved back to Westlock in 1972 after I retired from the University. Our home address is 9935-104 Street.

### **Ivan Short and Ruthie Nickerson Families by Ruthie Short**

Ivan, second eldest son of Silas and Gladys Short, was born in Pibroch, where they lived a few years before moving to the Rochester area. Ivan's parents retired to Westlock in the winter of 1959,

where they remained until their passing. Silas passed away on June 12, 1964. His wife, Gladys, passed away on August 26, 1973.

Ivan has two brothers; Donald of Westlock and Ralph of Edmonton, also three sisters; Dorothy of Boston Bar, B.C., Betty of Westlock and Winnifred, now deceased, who lived in Kamloops, B.C. Winnie and her husband Harry and two of their grandchildren died in a tragic accident near Williams Lake, B.C. on Easter Sunday, April 19, 1981.

Ivan met, and later married, Ruthie Nickerson, eldest daughter of Mabel and George Nickerson, who lived north and east of Dapp. I (Ruthie) was born and raised in the Larkspur district. My sister and I attended the Larkspur one-room school for a number of years. I have one sister, Marlaine, and a brother, Lloyd. My Mom and Dad moved to Westlock in 1960. My Dad has worked for a number of years for the Town of Westlock, mostly in Parks and Recreation. He plans to retire this fall (1983) in time for the hunting season.

Ivan and I lived on the farm at Rochester for a few years, then moved to Westlock. Ivan began working with the School Division on August 1, 1962 where he has been employed since. I began with A & M Department Stores Ltd on June 21, 1962 and am still employed there.

We were blessed with three sons; Charles George, born August 21, 1958, Dwaine Edward, born on July 1, 1960, and Timothy Hubert whose birthday was January 19, 1962. We all had many happy times together. There was the year we went to Vancouver on the train when the boys were about 18 months, 2½ years and 4½ years old. We stopped over a few days in Boston Bar, B.C. then caught the train again at 4 a.m. The boys, unaccustomed to being awakened at such an early hour, cried, fought and fussed all the way to Vancouver. What an early morning train ride that was! I am sure the other passengers on the train were impressed.

We spent holidays and week-ends together doing things like camping, travelling, "cuborees", camp-borees, jamborees and baseball and hockey games and tournaments. Now our boys are all away from home and on their own.

Charles, the oldest and first to leave the nest married Lorna L'Hirondelle on September 13, 1975. They had two beautiful daughters, Charlette Loreli born July 9, 1977 and Nadia Faith born March 29, 1980.

Dwain married Debbie Poliakiwski on October 28, 1979 and they also have two lovely children, Dwain Jeremy (known as D J) born February 6, 1979 and Dawn-Marie Debra born May 12, 1981.

Timothy married Dona Coolidge on July 19,



1980. As yet, they have only "Bear", their dog, as additional family member.

On August 23, 1982, our lives were totally devastated by the horrendous accident which claimed the lives of Charles' whole family — his wife Lorna and daughters Charlette and Nadia died in a flaming car accident at Vermilion, Alberta, just thirteen miles from their home in Mannville.

### The Shutt Family

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Shutt were very early settlers in the Westlock area. Mr. Shutt, a fine English gentleman and his wife, a very attractive lady, came to the area in 1903.

While still in England he, with the aid of maps, determined where the railroad would be laid north of Edmonton, selected his homestead and journeyed to the North West Territories. His homestead was just east of the present site of Westlock.

They brought with them a wonderful library, a collection of firearms and swords, and many fine pieces of furniture. However, agriculture was an occupation in which he had not any experience and little interest.

In 1916 he was appointed secretary-treasurer of the Village of Westlock.

Unfortunately, in February, 1923, the house was burned to the ground with the loss of all their irreplaceable valuables.

### Skaalen Family

Mr. and Mrs. Helge Skaalen immigrated from Norway to Henlingtown, Iowa, U.S.A. in 1904. In 1906 Mr. Skaalen, Peter Lind and Albert Strome

came to the Manola District and Mr. Skaalen filed on a homestead, the SE of Section 24 Township 59 Range 2 West of the Fifth Meridian.

In 1907 Mrs. Skaalen and two children, son Earl



Bertha and Gertie Skaalan at homestead house, 1914.

and daughter Gertie, came to the homestead and stayed after they got a log house built. Mr. Skaalen went back to Edmonton to work. In 1909 a daughter Bertha was born.

In 1927, due to ill health, they sold the farm and moved to the Hamlet of Manola. Mr. Skaalen, being a shoemaker by trade in Norway, operated a Shoe and Harness repair shop there. Mr. Skaalen passed away in 1944 and Mrs. Skaalen in 1950.



Mr. and Mrs. H. Skaalan, taken in 1935.



H. E. Skaalen with oxen Tom and Jerry 1918.

Earl married Ella Stephens and they had two children, Lloyd and Gladys.

Gertie married Henry Terhorst and they had two children, Hardy and Winnie.

Bertha married Charles Johnston and they had two children, Donald and Charlie.

## **Albert and Sylvia Smith**

**by Albert Smith**

I was born in England. My father, Richard Smith, came to Canada with his two brothers, Jack and Tony. They arrived in Edmonton in 1912 where Dad worked for the Alberta Lumber Company, situated near the Low Level Bridge until the flood washed the mill away.

My mother and I arrived in Edmonton in 1913. My Dad was working for the J. F. Stiles Lumber Company, at Leduc so we went there. It was there that I received most of my education. I came to Pickardville in 1927 to work on the farm, then returned to Leduc in the fall to work for the Royal Bank of Canada until the spring of 1929, when I returned to the farm.

In July, 1935, I married Sylvia Ellen Measures, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Measures of Pickardville.

After the death of my father, Richard Smith, in 1945, we moved from the farm to the village of Pickardville where I took over the managership of the Pickardville Building Supplies, later acquiring full ownership of this business.

We have a family of five, namely: Mrs. **Elsie** Calkins, Pickardville; Mrs. **Ellen** Raymond, Keep-hills; Mrs. **Jean** Deshoux, Pickardville; Mrs. **Linda** Bilinski Pun-nichy, Sask; and **Reginald Smith**, Pickardville.

We sold our lumber business in September, 1978, and have retired in the village of Pickardville.

## **The George R. Smith Family**

**by their daughter Mrs. Bertha Cameron of Victoria, B.C.**

Mother and Dad and my younger sister Doris and I arrived in Pickardville about June 1925. Mr. A. Poirior drove us there with the supplies we needed in the back of his truck. Our home was to be a small granary with two tiny windows and just room for two beds, a table, chairs and a stove. This was on the property where the Municipal house was later built, and which we occupied as Dad was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipal District of Hazelwood. The new house was much larger but with no insulation. It was very cold and I often slept near the stove in the living room in the winter as my bedroom was too cold.

I remember the night the community hall burned. For some reason I awoke or was awakened and watched the fire from the granary windows.

I started school at the one about 2½ miles west and south of Pickardville and then moved with the school to the United Church in Pickardville. We had classes there until the school in Pickardville was completed. I'm certain my Dad was involved in getting the school into town.

I belonged to Mrs. J. Forsyth's Pickardville Stars — a club for young girls. We had such fun spending two summers at a camp at Lac La Nonne with her. I believe we raised the money for this outing by staging concerts during the winter.

We were fortunate in having a very sports minded community so there were many things we could be involved in. Dad had a lot to do with organizing many of these sports. I remember playing basketball, softball, badminton, skating, skiing, and even swimming. We were so happy when a skating rink was finally made in town.

I believe it was Dad and Mr. Forsyth who got the town folks interested in having electric lighting in their homes, and they built and owned the lighting plant. It was Dad's job to go across the street each night about 12 midnight and turn the engine off.

Grandfather William Angus Smith lived with us for sometime. He had been a wealthy silk manufacturer in New York at one time. I still have some of his account books and letter heads, plus a couple yards of silk his company had woven. At that time this gorgeous silk was used not only for clothing etc. but also for wall covering, much the same as we use wallpaper today. Grandfather loved to sit out in front of the Municipal office while mother and dad worked and chat with folks passing by. I was about 12 when he died. Since black was proper for funerals and mourning in those days, mother had black and white gingham dresses made for Doris and I. The white in deference of our young age. Grandfather Smith was buried in the Pickardville cemetery Grandmother Smith who had died some years before was buried in the Clyde cemetery.

Mother's father also lived with us for a time. He was a lovely gentleman. For many years he had installed leaded glass windows in Cathedrals and churches all over England and Ireland. He was buried in Edmonton next to my grandmother.

Mother was a very musical person and played the piano and organ at church. She had a strong faith which she taught Doris and I which has stayed with me all my life. She was a school teacher by profession teaching first in England and then in Canada.

I took a course in Stenography and Bookkeeping



and then worked for Dad in the M.D. office for about 2½ years.

We moved from Pickardville in 1940, Dad, mother and Doris going to the B.C. coast and I having married Harry Cameron left to make my home in the Peace River district. Doris later married Charlie Cowan and lived for a time in Calgary. Harry and I moved to the coast thirty three years ago and like it very much. Doris also resides here. Mother and Dad both passed away and are buried here.

### **J. E. (Jim) Smith (N.W.¼ 21-60-26-4th)**

J. E. (Jim) Smith lived in Westlock and area from 1924 until his death in 1933.

He was born in Pakenham, Ontario in 1860. After his father's death thirteen years later he did a man's work, first on his mother's farm, then on his own in North Dakota.

His next adventure was going to Edmonton to join the Gold Rush of '98. Returning to Edmonton not much richer, he married Lottie Chegwin (whose brother Wm. Chegwin was one of Edmonton's early Methodist ministers) in 1900. Later they moved to homestead at Telfordville where they operated the first Post Office and opened their home to the first church service. Their second daughter Kathleen was the first white baby girl to be born in that area.



J. E. Smith with grandchildren Betty and Marjorie Watt.

Returning to Edmonton Jim went into partnership with Mr. Dalphin as a contractor, supplying materials to build the High Level Bridge, and building the first fence around the Ponoko Mental Hospital (where Kathleen later nursed).

In 1924 Jim Smith, his daughter Kathleen, his sister Mrs. McIntyre and her blind and deaf husband moved to Westlock, and lived west of the old Westlock Hotel. At that time Jim had a contract to build the section of the old Westlock-Edmonton highway between Legal and Vimy.

When his stint on the highway was completed, having nowhere to keep the horses, he bought and operated the Westlock Livery Stable (forerunner of the modern garage) until he sold it to Joe Feldman. Old timers will remember Joe for his kind heart, stentorian voice and considerable avoirdupois.

In 1926 Jim Smith bought the quarter section south and east of Prosperous School (N.W.¼ 21-60-26-4th), from William Gilliland.

In 1927 Jim was joined by his daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and George Currey from Leduc, who lived with him until his death in 1933. The Curreys, with their son Jim born in 1942, continued to live on the farm until they sold it to Dave McMaster in 1945.



George and Margaret Currey, about 1926.

J. E. Smith moved often but wherever he lived he was a kind and devoted family man, a man interested in the church and community, a man always ready to give a helping hand to anyone who needed it. And in the depression years many needed it.

Kathleen Smith married Miller Watt of Westlock. Miller later became mayor of Westlock, and during his term of office water, sewer and gas were installed.

After the death of Jim's sister Mrs. McIntyre in Westlock her husband lived with Kathleen and Miller until his death in 1945. In spite of his afflictions he was a kind patient man who never lost his sense of humor.

## **Jane and Richard Smith**

**by Albert Smith**

My father, Richard Smith, arrived in Edmonton from England with his two brothers, Jack and Tony, in April, 1912.

My father worked for the Alberta Lumber Company. Their mill was then located near the Low Level Bridge. He worked for this company until a flood washed away the mill.

Next he went to Leduc and worked for the J. F. Stiles Lumber Company.

My mother and I arrived in Edmonton in May, 1913. We lived in Leduc until July, 1930, when my parents moved to Pickardville where my dad took

over the management of the P. Manning lumber yard. Later, he acquired a financial interest in the business.

My parents were both very active in the United Church. My dad sang in the choir and Mother played the organ for many years. They took an active interest in all community activities. Mother was a member of the United Church Women's organization and Dad enjoyed taking parts in plays put on by the Glee Club.

Dad passed away in July, 1945 and Mother in September, 1963.

## **The Homestead Days of Andy and Sadie Smith**

**as remembered by Sadie**

Andrew Henry Smith was born May 18, 1891, in Minot, North Dakota. He was the second youngest of a family of eight children.

In 1898 when Andy was seven years old, his father, William, and mother, Sara, came west to settle in the White Mud area of Edmonton. They came by train and it was so slow they remember walking along beside it at times. Andy found the time boring so he livened it up a bit. He told of climbing up on the baggage rack and picking the feathers off a ladies hat. His older brother, Wilfred, usually disciplined him, as their mother was in poor health. When they



Family of William and Sara Smith. Bottom row, L to R: Mother (Sara), Bertha, George, Andy, Dad (William). Top row: May (seated), William, Wilford, Nettie and John.



reached the border, the train made a stop. There were trunks on baggage carts around and a bridge over some water. Andy decided to push the carts around; it was great fun until one of them went over the bank into the water. Wilfred had to fish it out and Andy got a licking.

Their father went into real estate as there was a great demand for land at that time. He bought up a lot of land in St. Albert and had a dairy farm along the Sturgeon River. The children went to school at Rabbit Hill. They met the Adkins family and Andy and May Adkins were both baptized in the Baptist Church. Years later May married Mac MacDougall.

Andy was big for his age and didn't like school so his dad let him get a job skidding logs down the river. Andy also learned the blacksmith trade from Mr. Heart in Edmonton.

In 1905, when Andy was fourteen years old, his father filed on land for him as he was too young. The land was one and a half miles west of the Hazel Bluff Church; Bill McKibbin's old place, where Ivey's live now. It had so much black alder on it that he gave it up and refiled on land by the Sunnybank Hall (Wayne Forbes now owns it). He built a log cabin and a log barn. Bert Lyons used to tell him the roof was so steep it could split raindrops. Andy, Sanford Sawyer and Bert Lyons lived together one winter and worked at Nelson Clark's mill.

Some of the bachelors, to name a few, were Eddie Boon, Sid Fields, Tracy Miller, Mac MacDougall, Dudley Chaffee, Bert Daly, Walter Ashton, Jack Hogan, Sanford Sawyer, Albert Short, Stantons, Bert and Fred Lyons.



Walter and Sadie Ashton, Dec. 1914.

Father bought a steam engine and brother George and Andy ran it. Once it went through the Sturgeon River bridge. Later they worked at George Renton's mill with it, where it burned in a fire. Father had his arm taken off in a mill accident.

The bachelors had to make their own fun and create their own excitement in those days. One fellow got some turkeys and bragged that nobody could steal any of his flock without his knowing about it, and what he would do if they tried it. Of course, the boys felt this was quite a challenge. They stole a turkey and were in the process of cooking it when they saw the fellow coming to visit. They promptly doused the fire. They nearly froze waiting for the fellow to get through telling them about the so and so who stole one of his turkeys.

They also had their share of traveling preachers. It was a good way to get looked up to with free meals and a bed thrown in, if you could read the Bible. Mr. Robins held meetings in his house while one of these preachers were there. Andy came late and pulled up a chair in front of the cellar door beside Bert. The preacher had a long nose with a wart on it. A fly kept lighting on it; he would brush it off and it would buzz around for a while then light on his nose again. Bert whispered to Andy, "I think he's got sugar on it." Andy leaned back to hide a laugh, the cellar door flew open and he went down, chair and all. Some of these fellows were still in their teens and any excuse to get out was never missed.

I should mention here that Andy had brothers and sisters who settled for a time in the area. William Smith married Ruth Miller (Tracy's sister). Wilfred married Mary Manning. William died of typhoid fever. Ruth was expecting another baby so she left her four older children in a home in Edmonton and went back to the States. Times were hard. Wilfred and Mary decided to adopt one of the children but when they went in to see them they felt so sorry for them they adopted them all. Several years later Wilfred was killed. He was untangling the harness on a team of horses pulling a load of bricks when they bolted and he was crushed. Mary later married Mr. Latimar and raised the children until they were grown. George Smith married Lillian Lockwood and lived near Edmonton. Nettie married Fred Garbe and for a time lived west of the Hazel Bluff church. May Smith married Gilbert Adkins and lived north east of the Westlock Golf Course. The house is now abandoned and still stands. They had five children; Martin, Louise, Bertha, Eunice and Lois. Gilbert and Martin died within two months of each other. May was a seamstress and took in sewing besides running the farm to support the four girls. May still lives in the Auxiliary Hospital in Westlock at age 94. Her young-



Andy and Sadie Smith's 25th Wedding Anniversary, 1940.

est daughter, Lois, lives in Jarvie with her husband Hardy Terhorst.

In 1914, Walter Ashton wrote a letter to his sister Sadie, in South Dakota asking her to come for a visit. Sadie is still here to this day and I would like to tell you how this came about, as told by Sadie.

In 1910, Walter decided to go to Canada. Dudley Chaffee and his sister Mrs. Reed were also planning to go as Mrs. Reed had a daughter living in Manola, Alberta. They planned to go there first and then file on land after looking around. They packed up; each took a covered wagon. Walter also had a Palomino riding horse and they headed out together.

Walter wrote of some of his adventures along the way although he was not much of a letter writer. Mrs. Reed did keep in touch with us and wrote to my older sister, Nellie, more often. They told of stopping in the pouring rain one night at an old cabin. When they



50th Wedding Anniversary of Andy and Sadie Smith, 1965.

entered they saw a table with dishes on it. The stove had a frying pan on it full of mould, like eggs or something had been fried in it and left. It appeared someone had left in a hurry and never came back. They opened the cupboard door to discover a man's head had been left there for some time. This was in Powder River, Montana; places were few and far between. They left, though travel was slow and wet, and camped a few miles further on. They talked with some folks later and were told that the cabin was deserted when a woman discovered her husband's head there. They didn't know any more about it and probably didn't care to.

I was able to save all my old postcards from 1908 on, which, by the way, have one cent stamps on. As I read them now they tell more of their own story. Here is one Nellie received from Mrs. Reed.

Crook, S. Dak.  
Aug. 15, 1910

Dear Nellie,

Well, here we are leaving Montana, will be in South Dakota in a few minutes. Part of the time in one state and part in another. We are well on our way to Canada. We were so disappointed not to see you people when we left. We had to go to Rapid, and Dudley being so sick, we could not possibly go. Now I hope you will write to me at Manola in care of my daughter Maggie Garret.

Millie Reed  
Kindersly, Sask.  
Aug. 1910

Dear Sadie,

We are now 800 miles to Edmonton, 100 miles from White Owl, South Dakota. Nine weeks to Manola on the road, ten weeks Monday. We have had a good time, and are camped at a dipping tank (disinfectant bath for animals). A good spring here. It rained four days now. Be sure to write so we can have the news when I get to Manola. I do not like Montana any more.

Mrs. Reed

These cards tell some of the story and I am sure they had quite an experience. Mrs. Reed told of cooking along the way. One time she boiled a prairie chicken and was going to put dumplings in the iron pot. Walter asked her how she was going to keep the lid on tight and she told him she planned for him to sit on it. She would tell us it was so windy sometimes that it blew the baking powder right out of the biscuits. She had a great sense of humor and so did Walter.

Manola, Alberta  
Sept. 1910

Dear Friends and all;

We are at my daughter's now. We are well; Walter



had sick spells along the way and we had to lay over four days and nights. Walter was the cause. We were three months coming 1400 miles. I have not got rested up yet. There is more bush and timber than I expected although it is the best black soil I have ever seen. Awful short summers and frost late in the spring then early in the fall. Boys have not looked around yet. Will write more when I can.

Mrs. Reed  
Manola, Alberta  
Oct. 11, 1910

Dear Nellie and all;

We are well. Walter is writing his Ma. "Oh you know him." He hates to write. I have to do some coaxing to get him started. He likes the country fine but we have not found anything yet. There is land here that is not taken, but so much work to clear it ready for the plow, so much timber and brush. They are looking for land now but will stay at my daughter's for the winter. Write, soon, Mrs. Reed.

Manola, Alberta.  
Dec. 7, 1910

Dear Sister Nellie,

This is a view of the mill 3 miles south west of here. This will give you some idea of the country. Dudley is back from hunting, got one deer. Come up and have supper. We will have venison. Tell Bert and Chester "Hello."

W.H.A.  
Pembina, Alberta  
March 1911

Dear Friends;

We are well. Dudley filed on some land. Walter's place joins it. We gave \$3,300 for it. A fine good ranch with a five room house.

Mrs. Reed  
Pembina, Alberta  
April 11, 1911

Dear Friends and Nellie;

It rained last night, commenced on Tues. and never let up till Sun. The river is high. It caught 70 saw logs and found boats going down.

Walter  
April 20, 1911

Dear Sadie;

Come and see the country where they raise crops without irrigation. The crops look fine but the cut-worms are bad.

Walter

So it was that Sadie Ashton finally decided to come to Canada to visit her brother Walter. I made plans just for the trip and only spend a couple of months with him and return on July 10. That was in 1914. I came on a settler's train that was bringing settlers to Canada. Settlers rates were only \$25.00 to

go from Faith, S. Dak. to Clyde, Alberta. We were five days on the train. It was slow and hot and I got very freckled from the sun. I remember going through Jamestown, N. Dak. and Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. I remember how exciting it was to see the Red Coats for the first time when we crossed the border. The laws were very different then and we were not even checked at the border. That morning we were served fresh raspberries; I had never tasted them before. One of the things that impressed me was the heaps of buffalo bones. As we traveled further the country was very different; beautiful trees and thick bush, like going into a wilderness. I thought of Walter and wondered if he traveled any of the same country, though he had been much longer traveling by covered wagon.

Walter had written and told me to stay over in Edmonton at the Cecil Hotel. I got off the train and asked a policeman where it was and he reached out and touched it. He told me to go around to the other side and I would find the door. Next morning I caught the train to Clyde which was as far as the rail tracks went in the direction I wanted to go. Walter had written of the rain, but believe me, it rained! I had to ride the mail coach from Clyde. Joe Bushaw was driving. There was another lady who traveled on the same train also going to the Pembina Store. I will never forget the splattering with mud we got from the wheels. We were both wearing long skirts. Mules were used to pull the coach and roads were just trails in the mud.

Westlock was just a small place with a few businesses, and buildings were far apart. Railway ties were being put in for future trains. We got stuck right in the middle of the street and had to get another mule team from Marshall's livery barn to pull us out. Finally we got to Pembina Post Office (where Nelson Letts land is).

Walter and Mrs. Reed met me in the mud and rain. I couldn't help remarking to Walter about the funny boots he wore. He said, "If you stay up here in the muskeg long enough your feet will look like this too." He wore shoepacks. They were made of rawhide, felt lined and laced in front on hooks. Mrs. Reed had a log house where Tom Golder used to live, along the Pembina River. Walter had a log house just north of them, but it was very small so Mrs. Reed asked me to stay with them, which I did, till Christmas. Every time I talked of going home they talked me into staying longer. I worked in the post office for Earnest Letts for six weeks that fall.

Life was harder than most of the settlers could have ever imagined. There was so much brush, trees and rocks. The trees were big poplars, cottonwoods and pines. If you filed on 160 acres of land you had to

clear five acres a year for three years. The clearing was done by hand with the help of an axe, but clearing was slow. When you got enough cleared the land was very good. I remember my brother had a milk cow and some horses. He had a good garden and also grew wheat, oats and barley. There were a lot of bachelors who also filed on land and they all helped each other. There was a lot of trust in those days.

Here is a list of money Walter received for furs he sold the year before I came:

Feb. 5, 1913

22 muskrats	7.70
2 skunks	3.00
1 mink	7.50
6 ermine	6.00
2 ermine	1.00
1 ermine	.50
	<hr/> 25.70

There was always a little extra money to be made this way.

Mrs. Reed wanted me to meet some of the people so we went to an auction sale for Mrs. Spencer. She lived four miles north and half a mile west of Hazel Bluff. Jenkins lived there for many years later, then Nick Holub. I met Maggie Sawyer for the first time that day (she was a sister to Bert, Fred and Will Lyons). Maggie was making tea in a big copper boiler. Other ladies had made moose meat sandwiches. It had been raining a lot but for some reason it turned out a beautiful day. I met Maggie's son, Sanford, Andy Smith, Fred and Bert Lyons, Eddie Boon, Sid Fields, Bert Daly and Tracy Miller.

Andy was a lot of fun and that winter he borrowed Bert Lyons' cutter and took me to dances. Albert Short and Gary Hanson used to play music. The Stantons used to come in a wagon with big hoops over the top and a stove in it to keep warm. We went to dances at Manola, which were held in a big horse shelter tent. There were heaters in each corner to get warm by. We heated rocks and had buffalo robes in the cutter but would still get cold before we got home. Andy was a good skater and taught me how to skate. We went to skating parties on Brownlies lake (north of where Len Lardner lives today).

I only knew Andy five months when we decided to get married. I wrote back home to tell them the good news. I never dreamed it would be 32 years before I ever went back or that I would never see my parents alive again. Andy's parents invited me to come and get acquainted with them so I went to Edmonton and stayed a few weeks before the wedding. I had a lot of fun with Andy's sisters, getting ready. His sister, May, made a lovely wedding dress for me.

We were married in Andy's parents home on 83

Ave. in Edmonton on April 26, 1915. The Minister was Reverend McGill of the Baptist Church. Some of the guests were Mac and May MacDougall, Martin and Gill Adkins, Eddie Boon, Louie Sherwin, Charlie Hamilton. Some of the men were on their way overseas with the 49th Brigade.

Along with a cow and a crate of chickens we received other gifts, a frying pan and some dishes. We got some groceries, loaded the wagon and started for home. We got as far as St. Albert that night and stayed with Andy's brother George and family. The roads were bad for travel so the next night we camped in an old barn. We had nice weather so cooked out in the open. When we arrived home we tried to build a fire in the cook stove but it would do nothing but smoke. Andy climbed on the roof to see what was the matter with the pipe and I heard him say, "Gee Whiz! There's a chunk of sod in the pipe, and I know just what son-of-a-gun put it there." We heard someone laugh and sure enough it was Bert Lyons had put it there, so we invited him in to dinner. We only had one spoon so we took turns using it. We had lots of good friends and good times.

In 1916, our first baby, Oliver, was born at home. Ludie Wheeler and Mrs. Reed were with me. I wrote back home often to my folks and sometimes longed to go back for a visit but there wasn't much money and I had started my family. My sister Ada wrote that though my mother was blind, she could still sew and dry dishes.

In 1918, Douglas was born at home and Mrs. Reed was with me. Andy was a very good blacksmith and decided at this time to open a blacksmith shop in Westlock. We sold our farm to Bert Daly and bought two lots where Lindahl's Store is today. We paid \$50.00 a lot for it. Andy built a small house and a shop right next to it. The fumes from the coal forge didn't agree with Andy so eventually we rented the shop to Fletcher Johnson for a while then sold to Peter Vanguard. He paid us \$75.00 a lot. We decided to go back farming and stayed with Walter for a while as I was expecting another baby. We bought Walter's place on the river and he bought land across the river from us. We broke the first three acres with an ox team. We added a room to the log house and Cecil was born there in 1920. In 1922 Dr. Henderson was in Westlock so for the first time I had a doctor with me, when Bruce was born.

Andy sowed grain by hand and when it grew you would never know it wasn't seeded by a machine.

We rented the Chaffee farm for two years as it was closer to school for the boys. We were living there when Mary was born. By this time Mrs. Dinwoodie had a nursing home in Westlock, but it burned down. Mary was born at home and Frances



came to the house. Dinwoodie's bought a larger house and set up a new nursing home.

I had written home and my sister kept me up to date with the news there. I was expecting my sixth baby when Walter got a letter from Ada saying Mother had taken a stroke and passed away. Walter asked Andy not to tell me until after the baby was born. Lola was born two years to the day after Mary; they share a December 3rd birthday.

We then moved back to the river farm. Andy had built a frame house there and we used the old one for stock. The boys rode horses to school at Riverdale.

Edna was born at the river farm and this time Mrs. Forbes came. There was no place to take Mary and Lola, and Mary remembers tearing a hole in the wallpaper and seeing Edna born.

Andy bought more land, this time from Fred Griswold, three miles north of Hazel Bluff church. We moved there in 1927. Elmer Hanna helped build the house. Rosa was born here and Frances Dinwoodie came.

We bought a threshing machine and hired many neighbor boys for the crew. They threshed for people near and far for years. Andy and Nelson Clark also used to freight hay down the Pembina river to Chisholm.

Westlock finally got a new hospital and Mona, my last baby, was the first to be born in a hospital, with Dr. Kickham.

In 1937 our house burned down while we were away to a festival in Westlock. We believe it started from an old egg incubator. Oswald Parker built our new house.

Andy sawed wood for many years. I can still hear the scream of the saw as it cut through the tough timbers.

Andy always had a blacksmith shop on the farm and did a lot of jobs for neighbors. Shoeing horses and sharpening shares brought him out of the fields from his own work many a time.

In May, 1970, Andy passed away. Two years later I went into the Pembina Lodge in Westlock and sold the farm to Charlie Miller. My grandson, Lester Smith, owns the river farm.

My oldest son, Oliver, passed away in December, 1974. I now reside in the Westlock Nursing Home where I get the best of care and am still enjoying life despite my 93 years.

### **Alberta (Bertie Lentz) Snyder** by Bertie Snyder

I, Alberta (Bertie Lentz) Snyder, daughter of Alex and Pearl Lentz, lived most of my childhood years in the Echo Hill district. I attended the local rural schools for my elementary grades, then went to

Westlock for my High School. Next I attended Normal School in Edmonton and later taught at Fawn Lake School.

In 1934 I married George Snyder and we farmed in the Bon Accord district. We had one son, Donald, who was born in 1939. In 1942 my husband was killed in a tractor accident. I left the farm and moved to Edmonton where I worked for the Provincial Government until I retired 33½ years later.

Donald was active in scouting and we both were active in the Eastwood United Church. Don graduated in Engineering in 1961, has worked in Regina, and is now with Consolidated Pipe Lines in Calgary. He has a lovely wife, Maureen, a daughter Laura, in University and a son Craig, in High School.

I am presently active in Volunteer work and in St. Paul's United Church work.

### **Pat (Boyd) Sparks**

Pat went to Edmonton to work when she finished high school. It was at Hayward Lumber that she met her husband Doug Craig after the war. They were married in Westlock in July, 1946.

Pat and Doug lived in Edmonton for many years; here Crystal, Candy, Colleen, Brad, Carla and Brett were born. In November of 1963, when Brett was less than a year old, Doug was killed in a car accident. This was on the Edmonton-Whitecourt highway. Pat stayed on in the city for some time before she moved her family to Vancouver. There she met and married Cecil Sparks. They still live and work in Surrey.

Candy (Mrs. Dale Foran), lives with her family in Ontario, Crystal (Mrs. Andy Watson) and their family are in Ardrossan. Colleen and Carla are married and in Vancouver. Brad and his wife live in Fort St. John, B.C. and Brett is still at home.



Garf, Ora, Bella, Pat and Lorne Boyd, 1972.

## The Spragge Family

by Keitha Spragge

The Spragge family moved to Westlock in stages. Wilson came from Camrose on September 1, 1949 to open the newly built seed cleaning plant. In Camrose he had been a grain buyer and seed plant operator for nearly 20 years.

Housing at this time was very scarce so the family stayed on in Camrose.



Wilson Spragge's 80th birthday, April 13, 1980. Top row, L to R: Isabel, Betty, Mary Lou. Bottom row: Willard, Keitha, Wilson.

Betty, the oldest daughter arrived the end of October. She was a recent graduate of the Camrose Lutheran College, came here to accept a position as Secretary to Mr. W. A. Ross, District Agriculturist. She lived with the Stutchbury family for two months till the rest of the family arrived. Betty only stayed one year, moving on to Edmonton to work at John Deer Machinery for 3 years or until her marriage.

During Christmas vacation we made the big move. Mother (Keitha) Mary Lou, 14 yrs., in Grade 8, Isobel 10 yrs., Grade 4, and Willard 8 yrs., in Grade 2. Now we were a family of six again.

Wilson stayed with the Seed Plant about two years. By this time the dust was really affecting his health. On the Doctor's advice he gave up this work. He then joined the staff of Frank Merryweather John Deer Machinery for 3 years. He did enjoy this work. Then came a slump in Sales. This time he started a third career in Westlock. He joined the staff of the Westlock School Division, as Transportation Man-

ager. The first school bus garage was on the corner next to Westlock Bakery; with the number of busses to service it was very crowded. The school board soon made plans for the new school bus garage. This was a joy to work in. With three big stalls and two mechanics, busses were serviced much faster.

Wilson carried on here till his retirement in April 1965. At this time he was much too young to quit work, we decided to buy our own bus; took the contract for the Hazel Bluff route. He drove this route for six years till 1971.

Wilson drove most of the evening athletic and H.S. Band trips. Many were league games. They travelled in all kinds of weather. Mr. C. Truckey, the Physical Education teacher was also a driver.

One trip stands out so clearly in my memory. It was Easter Vacation. We drove the High School Band to the Peace River, where they put on five concerts, this was part of their work experience with Band Leader, Mr. Jerry Bryant. They were a marvellous group of young people. We had 45 pupils and 2 teachers, plus luggage and Band Instruments; making up 2 big bus loads.

I was usually invited to go along on the overnight trips to be nurse and an extra chaperone for the girls. On this particular trip I really had a nursing job to do. One boy had his chin cut the Saturday night before we left, requiring several sutures, so these had to be removed before we returned.

The trip cost the students very little for it was arranged for us to be billeted in various homes in the towns where we held concerts.

All the time our children were growing up in Westlock, Wilson and I tried to help with their various activities. We had one in each group; Betty in



Keitha Spragge's father, James William Pearson, on his 100th birthday.



Young Peoples, she also helped with C.G.I.T.; Mary Lou was in C.G.I.T.; Isobel in Explorers and Willard in Mission Band. There was always one group needing help.

Warren Smith and Wilson also led the Wolf Cubs for many years. Then Willard joined Army Cadets.

Our first fifteen years we were both very busy in the church, Wilson served a term on the Board of Stewards Session, did the gestettner work before we had a church secretary; played the chimes, then after he retired from work, he was caretaker of the church for 3 years.

After this he was secretary of the Westlock Fair for two years. I served a two year term on the Christian Education Committee for C.G.I.T.

Wilson came from Ontario, he was born on Good Friday, April 13th on his Grandfather's farm at Warton at Colpoys Bay. The place is called Spragge's Hill. We had the pleasure of seeing his birthplace three years ago. The children gave us a trip to Ontario for our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary.

I (Keitha) was born in Ontario at Stirling, some 16 miles from Belleville. My father was a cheesemaker in the East at Anson. Mrs. Anne Hide knows the place.

With two baby girls my parents came West by train to Provost to prove up a homestead 12 miles North of town. In 1916 we moved to town for school. After High School Graduation I went to Edmonton to the University of Alberta Hospital to train as a Nurse. Then after a short while on staff in Edmonton I went back to Provost to work. At the age of 25 Wilson moved West to Provost, we met, married and a few years later moved to Camrose.

In Westlock at the Immaculata Hospital I was on staff for some 27 years, mostly, permanent part time. Most of this time was in the Obstetrical Department. In 27 years I saw two generations of babies. My first babies had most of their families before I retired.

I am pleased to say I am one of the five original members of Our Nurses' Chapter and one of three Life Members. We were given life memberships after 50 years of Registration in the A.A.R.N.

We have always tried to help with Community Health Projects, such as "The Blood Donor Clinic, Kidney Foundation, Baby Sitting Courses, films and Bursaries for Student Nurses."

When we arrived in 1949 the hospital was only a small cottage style building. The 1948 wing was in the planning stage, the building started that spring.

The three younger children all Graduated from Westlock High School. Each moved on, married and have given us nine grandchildren.

Betty married Bill Wahl, a Westlock man. They now reside in Edmonton. Bill is with Western Rock

Bit Company Ltd, manager Drilling Equipment Division. Betty is Tour Director Supervisor for Majestic Tours.

Mary Lou is married to Harry K. Astoria of Prince Rupert, B.C. They now reside in Burnaby, B.C. and have four grown children, 3 boys and 1 daughter. Harry is Branch Manager Vancouver Thermoshell Centre in Burnaby B.C. for Shell Canada Ltd. Mary Lou is now a Sales Representative with Royal Trust Co. Burnaby, B.C.

Isobel married Norman Theberge, who also grew up in Westlock. They now live in Kelowna, B.C. Isobel is assistant Supervisor of Nurses for the 280 bed Extended Care Hospital "Cottonwoods". Norm is self employed. This summer he is busy building the family a House Boat. They have two grown sons.

Willard, married Karen Gillespie from Camrose. They have lived eleven years in Trail, B.C. where Willard is Personel Manager and Training Officer of Kootenay Savings and Credit Union's eight Branches. Karen is a teller with Bank of Montreal. They have 3 sons age 12, 16 and 18 years.

My father James William Pearson, spent nearly 11 years in Westlock, from Feb. 1st 1969 until his death Dec. 6, 1979. He had his 100th Birthday Aug 19, 1979. At age 95 years, he fractured his hip. Even after surgery and much therapy he was never able to walk again. Spent over 5 years in the Westlock Nursing Home.

For his 100th Birthday, 46 members of the family from all parts of Canada from Whitehorse to Toronto, gathered for a family dinner at Hazel Bluff Hall. He really seemed to enjoy seeing his 10 Grandchildren and 19 Great Grandchildren. It was a great day for the whole family. Few of them ever saw Grandpa again. He was buried beside my mother in the cemetery in Camrose, Alberta.

## **W. B. H. Squair** **by Clara Brown**

Mr. W. B. H. Squair came to Edmonton from Scotland in 1908. He then acquired a quarter section in Spruce Grove.

In 1911 he traded that land to a Mr. Armstrong, for the NW ¼-1-58-26-W4 which the family still farms. He also acquired the NW ¼-2-58-26-W4 from L. Pressoir. He later bought the southwest quarter of section one.

Mr. Squair married Mary Morrison, who taught school in the district in 1922. They had five sons; James, Morrison, Kenneth, Fraser and Allastair. James, Fraser and Allastair are married.

Mr. Squair passed away in November, 1963. Kenneth farms Mrs. Squair's land and three other quarters.

All the boys got their primary school education in Springfield School.

### Wesley and Alice Stacey

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley David Stacey moved west in the early 1900's from Ontario, where he was a lumberman in all sense of the word. He and his wife, Alice Victoria (nee Paul) retired to Westlock in 1948. They are buried in the Westlock Cemetery.



Wesley and Alice Stacy.

Their son-in-law and daughter, David J. and Beatrice Fenton, with Keith E. and Lois Grace (Judy) moved to Westlock from Athabina, Flatbush in 1952. The children finished their high school education in Westlock and moved on for further education, and Dave became a carpenter.

The Fentons retired to Strathcona, Edmonton, in 1980.

### Treasured Memories

by Lois Kinniard and Rosa Sherwin

#### The Stanley Story

Our father, Arthur Stanley and his brother Edwin, left Oxfordshire, England in March, 1905, travelling with the Adkins family. After ten days at sea, they arrived in Halifax, Canada, then went on to Manitoba, where they worked for a year. From there, they travelled to Edmonton where the Adkins family was

living. In the spring of 1906 they came to Swallowhurst (now Westlock) and took up homesteads, the Adkins settling along the Wabash Creek, and the Stanley boys a few miles farther north. After building small shacks and staying the required time on the homesteads, they returned to Edmonton to work.

While proving up their homesteads, the young men assisted in building the Hazel Bluff Church in



Mrs. John Adkins and son-in-law Arthur Stanley.

1909, where we, as a family, worshipped, and still do. Arthur, our father, taught Sunday School there for many years; was Superintendant and also an elder of the Church for several years. During this time he sang in the choir, as did my sister Lois and myself (Rosa). Over the years we sang many trios; a bass, a contralto and a soprano. I wonder how many fathers today would drive with a team and sleigh in cold weather for four miles to attend choir practice, as our father did. He was active in school work for many years, on the Sunnybank School Board and, after consolidation, on the Westlock School Board. He was also well known for his veterinarian services in the community; was a butcher, and assisted in that area as well.



In 1914 war was declared and Edwin enlisted in 1916. He was killed in action in 1917.

In 1912, Arthur married Lilian Adkins and they had five children, two girls, Lois and Rosa, and three boys, Edwin, Bill and Barry. My sister Lois, who was born in 1913, married Lawrence Mills, who was unfortunately killed in a woodsawing accident four months later. In 1936, she married Francis Kinnaird and they are now living in the Barrhead area. Three children were born of this union. Larry the eldest, died of leukemia at the age of thirteen, leaving Jack, who is married and has two children, and Linda, who is married, with one child. They are both teaching in the Barrhead School Division.



Rosa and Lois Stanley, 1917.

Shortly after Lois and Francis were married, a family picnic was held at the Pembina River. Francis was told he would meet some of his new relatives there. Being new in the area, he had no idea just what this entailed. He expected about a dozen, not forty or fifty, which must have been quite a shock. Maybe he thought “you should look before you leap!”

Rosa, born in October 1915, married Nick Sherwin in 1936. He was born in England, and his family emigrated to Winnipeg in 1912, moving to Edmonton in 1918 and coming to Westlock in 1928. The Sherwin family consisted of three children. The eldest, Douglas, married Anne Selby and they had two children, a boy and a girl. He died in 1965 a victim of

cancer. Anne married Ray Ryder and they have two boys and a girl. Judy Sherwin married Mike Wilson. They have a boy and a girl. They are all living in Edmonton. Nick and Rosa live in Westlock.

Edwin Stanley, born in 1918, remained a bachelor and lived on the farm where he took excellent care of Dad and Mother until their deaths — Father's in 1963 and Mother's in 1965. Edwin is now living in Westlock.

William (Bill) Stanley was born in June of 1923. He enlisted in the service of his country in 1942 and was killed in action in Italy in 1944. Barry, our youngest brother born our “April Fool” on April 1st, 1926, spent three years in the services. He married Jean Edmundson in February 1947, and they have six children — Three of each!

Bill married Doreen Villeneuve, and they have two daughters and are now living in Ft. Nelson, B.C.

Gina, who married Ray Wilkinson, had two daughters, and the family live near the old farm in the Hazel Bluff district.

Ken Stanley lives on the place that was formerly the Ben Allen farm with his wife Maureen (Hnatiuk) and their son.

Allan and his wife Cheryl (Saffin) have a daughter and live on the former Frank Nielsen farm.

Kathy married Locke Girban. They make their home in Sherwood Park, near Edmonton.

Marni, who attended the University of Alberta for four years, has recently brought honour to herself and the family, being chosen to attend University in England, majoring in English.

We spent many happy years on the Stanley Farm. We all attended Sunnybank School, walking two and a half miles (five miles a day) with some hardships which we didn't seem to mind, such as frozen



Arthur Stanley family, 1958. Back, L to R: Edwin and Barry. Front: Rosa, Lilian and Arthur (parents), and Lois.

cheeks, fingers and toes. Boy! Did that fire ever feel good!

Snowdrifts as high as the fence posts had to be climbed over or walked on, which was fun. Of course, when the snow melted there were many puddles to be crossed, often by walking along the wires of a barbed wire fence. When our new school was being built, classes were held in the Sunnybank Hall which was an additional two miles to travel, so our transportation was often by buggy and team. "Spider" and "Fly" were the horses' names.

Another incident we recall, was our first "bought" coats, that we got from Eaton's. They were too long, reaching halfway between our knees and our ankles, and of course, at age 13 or 14, we just could not be caught wearing anything that long because "nobody, but **nobody**" wore clothes below their knees, we told our mother. She tried to convince us that they would keep our knees warm, but to no avail, so off came a few inches. We spent the rest of the winter walking to school with the legs of our Dad's old socks pulled over our knees to keep them from freezing! "Kids".

### George Egar Stanton Story by Doris J. Brown

Egar Stanton was born at Chaffeys' Locks, near Elgin, Ontario on December 25, 1878. He was thirty years old when he came to the Hazel Bluff District

but had already been in business in Outlook, Saskatchewan, farmed at Edmonton, managed a theatrical troupe in Ontario, and travelled widely throughout Canada and the U.S.A.

It was October 21, 1908, when he started his general store located one mile west and ½ mile south of the Hazel Bluff Church. It was really a small scale Shopping Centre. Besides selling the usual groceries, dry goods and hardware, Egar was agent for Great West Saddlery, which made harness, boots and saddles. He also had the agency for one of the machine companies, selling plows, discs and harrows. Lumber, too was an important item. The numerous small mills in the area kept him supplied with spruce and poplar lumber. Stanton's Store even became a fur trading post in a small way. When the trappers came down from their trap lines each spring some of them stopped here and traded their fur catch for clothes, tea and tobacco. All the dry goods had to be freighted by oxen from Edmonton, over trails which wound around bush and swamps. The round trip took nearly a week.

The Store and Post Office occupied the ground floor of the building. The upper floor was one large room, used as a meeting hall for the district. It was open to anyone for dances, school meetings, church and political meetings.

In 1913, when the E.D. and B.C. railroad was built as far as township 60, the village of Westlock sprung up. There was then no need for the hamlet of Hazel Bluff or the many other post office communities, which gave up their identity to the new town.

Egar Stanton married the former Elizabeth Preston Lewis of Newboro, Ontario on January 31, 1912. Bessie took to the frontier village readily and before



Egar Stanton and Bessie Lewis on their wedding day, 1912.



Egar Stanton's store, S.E. 35-59-1-W5. L to R: Lee Stanton (Egar Stanton), sister Josie Golder. This building was moved south to Ern Stanton's place, N.E. 26-59-1-W5 and was made into a home.



long could ride horses and drive oxen. Later they moved to Edmonton where their son, Lewis, and daughter, Jean, were born. Then they came back to a farm at Hazel Bluff where their son Allan was born. Eggar started up another store in Westlock in 1918. He drove a horse from the farm but soon decided to buy a home in Westlock, which was situated at the corner of 99th. Ave. and 105th Street (the present site of the Pembina Memorial Chapel). Their second daughter Doris was born there.



Children of Eggar Stanton. Lewis, Allan, Jean and Doris.

The Stanton Store was on Main Street, where the A and M Store is now located. Later it was moved to 107th. St., next to Hunters' Hardware Store (now occupied by Dohertys' Show Room). Egars' nephew, Don Stanton, clerked for him, and later purchased



Mr. and Mrs. Eggar Stanton, 1966.

the business which became the Red and White Store. During this time, 1918-1931, Eggar also operated a general store at Dapp. Bessie was active in the little Anglican Church near their home. She played the organ and was a faithful member of St. Philips' Women's Auxiliary. She was also the first president of the Westlock Ladies Curling Club. Eggar was a member of the Westlock Village Council.

In 1931, the Stantons built a home a mile and a quarter south of the Hazel Bluff Church. Here they spent the Great Depression years and saw their sons go off to fight in the Second World War. In 1946 they moved back to their home in Westlock, which had been rented to the Boyd family for fifteen years.

Eggar and Bessie spent their pleasant retirement years in this hospitable home, and enjoyed having their grandchildren near by. They both passed away in 1968 and are laid to rest in the Hazel Bluff Cemetery. They were true Pioneers of the Westlock District.

### Henry Ernest Stanton and Family

Ernie Stanton came west from Ontario with his brother Ed in 1900. They had a farm near Calder, on the outskirts of Edmonton. Later, Ernie went to work for a neighbour, William Horricks. In his employ, Ernie freighted supplies with a four horse team for



Mrs. Ernie Stanton holding Walter, around her: Marjorie, Arthur and Leonard.

Revillon Frères, from Edmonton to Athabasca Landing and the Peace River country.

In the late fall of 1905, Ernie came to the Hazel Bluff district looking for land. He came by way of Lac La Nonne, driving on the river ice as far as William Clark's farm. A few days later, in Edmonton, he filed on the NE¼ 26-59-1-W5.

The next fall he built a log house and barn on the homestead.

In February, 1907, he married Mary Horricks, the oldest daughter of William Horricks. The story goes that Ernie and his brother Ed were dressed for church in top hats and matching frock coat, driving a pair of matched greys hitched to their buggy when they were confronted at a crossroads by the Horricks family, also going to church. Ernie was so taken by his first sight of Mary that he drove off the road and landed in the ditch presenting a laughable spectacle to Mary, the one who would be his bride.

The young couple were married at Turnip Lake Church near Namao, and left by train for Saskatoon for their honeymoon. The train was caught in a heavy snowstorm and the young couple were marooned for days in the little red caboose!



Ernest Stanton Home 1920. Back row: Marjorie, Leonard, Mrs. M. Stanton, Ern Stanton. Front row: Walter, Eva and Arthur.

They moved to the farm and the log shack by sleigh, drawn by horses and began building their married life. The years were busy; clearing land and coping, in one instance, with coming face to face with a bear as Ernie rounded the corner of the shack. Both bear and man took off in opposite directions. Many happy evenings were spent burning brush as they cleared the land — working together.

The trail from Clyde to Manola passed by the Stanton door, so they often had company. Many a happy meal ended with Mary's caramel pudding!

In 1913 they moved Eggar Stanton's store to the location of the shack and arranged it into an attractive home — the scene of many house parties. On Christmas Day thirty people or more would sit down to a

delicious meal. The piano was a focal point; many of the family could play and enjoy "sing songs."

The big brown house stood there until 1936, when it was torn down. The lumber was used to make a smaller home, where they lived together until 1964 when Ernie died. Mary stayed there another six years.

Marjorie, Leonard, Arthur, Walter, Eva, William and James were born on this farm.

Marjorie now lives with most of her family on Vancouver Island. Walter and Irene and family live at Courtenay, B.C. James lives in Vancouver and Eva and Bill Byvanks live in the district, as does Arthur and his family.

Ernest and Mary were always ready to help neighbours and to participate in community endeavours. They helped in the building of Hazel Bluff Church and Hazel Bluff School, and Mary was organist at the church for some time. All these qualities are reflected in the lives of their children.



Arthur and Alida Stanton on their 25th wedding with Ernest and Judy.

Some of the other members of the Stanton family who came to the district were Elizabeth (Lee) who worked as a salesgirl in Eggar's store until she married Percy Andrews. Will Stanton often visited his brothers for a few days from time to time. Ed Stanton bought the Packer homestead and owned it for a few years.



Later, Eggar Stanton operated a store one mile west and half a mile south of the church. Both of these men had a post office in conjunction with their businesses. The last post office south of the church was located in the James Cameron home.

The first entertainment in the new community was a house warming in the new log house built by Bill Brooks in 1906. Square dancing was very popular in the small rooms of settlers homes where four young ladies would have about twenty bachelors as partners. Music was supplied by a wheezy organ, a violin and an autoharp. Box socials were favorites, too, although the bids were often low, as there was very little money.

## **The Stanton Story**

### **by Don Stanton**

I arrived in Westlock June 15, 1919, to work in my Uncle Eggar's general store on First Street (now 107 St.). The following year Farmer Steele built two brick stores on Main Street. Uncle Eggar took over one of them when completed. My uncle retired from business a year or so afterwards.

Mr. McKinley, Art Bentley's father-in-law, managed a grocery store owned by Mr. Armitage on First Street, part of the store vacated by my uncle.

Mr. McKinley took ill and asked me to take over until he got well. That was not to be, and I eventually purchased the small business from Mr. Armitage, paying him \$333.00 cash plus two notes for like amounts. This was the beginning of my business career in Westlock.

Sometime around 1930, Harry Curlett, later to become the mayor of Westlock, had Mr. Neilson, a local contractor, build a two storey block on the corner of Main Street and First Street. I took over the ground floor. Dr. Henderson and Dr. Sands had offices on the second floor.

In 1923 I married Mildred Meyers, an Edmonton girl and, needing a place to live, bought a small cottage on Second Street, east of the bank, paying the owner the sum of \$1750.00.

When the first of our family came along we needed more house room so I had Mr. Neilson build a home on Fourth Street, east of Main, at that time the finest home in Westlock. The contract price for my house was \$2650.00. I quote these figures to give the reader a comparison to present day prices. Eventually Mr. Collins built on the left and Lorne Campbell on the right of my place.

We had three children: Joyce (Mrs. Badgley) now living in Belleville, Ontario; Carol (Mrs. Colden) living in Kingston, Ontario, and Don Jr., living in Picton, Ontario.

I sold my business in 1946 to Pat Conkin and moved to Belleville with my family, and purchased a

Men's Wear Store, from which I retired in 1966. I often think how fortunate I was to have such very fine gentlemen as Mr. McTavish and Mr. Lindahl as associates in the same line of business, in Westlock.

After a lengthy illness Mildred passed away in 1969 and I remarried in 1976. We now live six months of the year in Belleville and six months in Lakeland, Florida.

I often think of the years they term "the dirty thirties" when we paid the hard pressed farm women six cents a dozen for eggs and six cents a pound for butter. The butter we couldn't get rid of, so I stored hundreds of pounds in Jimmy Murfitt's ice house and, eventually had to pay some one to take the rancid, mouldy mess to the dump. Then there were the years we traded groceries for turkeys. I had so many hanging in my garage I had to store my car elsewhere. The turkeys were so blue and thin it took two to make a bowl of soup (nearly!).

I remember Mr. Patterson, a farmer on the base line waiting in my office for the Crone Bros. to bring him his cheque for a load of hogs they had taken to Edmonton for him. On their return, Wilf told Mr. Patterson they barely brought enough to pay the cartage.

The Watt boys, Miller and Bill, were delivering milk to our house at 21 quarts for a dollar.

The years the farmers could not market their grain, I exchanged groceries for wheat and stored same in my garage. When I was able to sell the wheat, at a loss, I had to replace some of the floor. The mice had a good winter.

These are some of the grocery prices I remember: 100 lb. bag of flour, \$3.25; 4 lb. tin of plum jam, 49 cents; cheddar cheese, 23 cents a pound; a twenty pound bag of sugar was \$1.19. A pair of G.W.G. bib overalls sold for two dollars and fifty cents, and the best pair of men's work boots were \$3.95. By the way, the flour and sugar sacks were washed and used for women's underclothes. Talk about tough times!

A few incidents that come to mind: — The time Jack McCrae brought Father Rooney back from Edmonton, hit a bad rut in the road and Father Rooney was cut on the forehead. Jack drove past Father's house, stopped in front of the hotel and told the fellows sitting on the veranda that Father was in a hotel bar brawl in Edmonton and got badly beaten.

One Hallowe'en night a gang of fellows went over to Clyde and strung old motion picture film up and down the main street and at twelve o'clock set fire to both ends. It looked like the whole town was on fire. In minutes, men and women were running out of houses all over the place, yelling "Fire." Some I remember were not what I would call properly dressed.

At Sgt. McCarthy's going away party: — Soon after the couples arrived at his home and barracks, the Sgt. gave us a conducted tour through the jail. Curious me walked into one of the cells. That was what Mac was waiting for. I missed the party and the lunch as he didn't let me out until next morning.

Well do I remember another Hallowe'en night; this was the year they were shipping baled hay to the States. They had three railroad box-cars loaded on a side track waiting to go. With lots of help and a day we put up a road block as high as we could reach, from the theatre across the road to Crone's implement building and another road block from the hotel across the street to the bank. That not being enough, we planted ten or twelve outhouses in the middle of both streets. That really caused more than a ripple in the town next morning.

Do you remember when the ball diamond was across the tracks in Mr. Montpellier's field? We decided to build a new one on the new site of the agricultural grounds. It was quite an undertaking, but when you want something badly enough, there is always a way to get it. Si MacGregor brought in his tractor from the farm and that night we borrowed a rail from the railroad to level the infield. Working with the rail and rakes for weeks, we finally had the diamond to our liking. That is when we made a mistake. We decided to keep the rail for future use. Only because Mr. Wagner, the station agent, intervened on our behalf, we could have been in deep trouble with the E.D. and B.C. railway.

In those days, if we wanted a ball diamond, a tennis court or a rink, the people interested would get together and do the work themselves. Like when a few men in town such as Dios Smith, Graham Walker, Wolsey Clark and others decided there was enough talent in town to organize a hockey team. They thought the Agricultural Building was a good place to have the rink, permission was granted and that was the beginning of the Westlock Hockey Team. Many a night, till two or three o'clock in the morning, I took my turn pumping water from a well outside the building. If my memory serves me right, the original team was: — Miller Watt, Louis Normandeau, Jim Hunter, Bo St. John, Joe Dussault, Joe Baker and myself. Later the Sutherland family arrived in town and Ivan was a welcome addition. Most of our games were played on Saturday nights against Edmonton teams. On two separate occasions we entered a tournament in Grande Prairie advertised as for the amateur championship of Northern Alberta. We won both tournaments. I am sure that hockey team gave a lot of pleasure to sport loving fans for miles around. The rink was jam-packed every Saturday night.

It was in the late twenties or early thirties that a curling club was organized and a rink built just east of the creamery on First Street. That rink, for men and women became, in the winter time, the most popular place in town. Some of the top curlers that immediately come to mind are Bill Gilchrist, Walter Armstrong, Father Rooney, Jim Hunter, Mac Torrie, Dios Smith; there were many others. We made a name for ourselves in Edmonton and elsewhere.

Every town has its likeable characters and Westlock was no exception. I could tell many stories about such characters as Jack McCrae, Fletcher Johnson, the blacksmith; Joe Feldman, owner of the feed barn; Paddy & Weiner, cattle buyers; Johnny Zaczkowski and others.

One morning I was looking out the store window when along came Joe Feldman on his way to the hotel for his regular morning drink. He was stopped by some little girls evidently collecting for some worthy cause. He gave them all the money he had in his pocket, turned around and went slowly back to his barn — small things — little acts of kindness that make one remember the good people of Westlock and district.

I will continue to say it was a privilege for me to live and do business with super people in a super town.

## **Orton B. Stephens Family** written by Dorothy Stephens

Orton's father Richard Stephens from eastern Canada homesteaded at the Pembina River in 1906, where the Manola bridge is now. In 1911 Orton with his brother Lloyd and older sister Mable came west to join him. In 1912 Lloyd was accidentally killed with his gun and the same year Mabel married Harvey Haywood and came to live on his homestead at Sunny Bank. Orton left home in 1916 and also came to Sunny Bank.



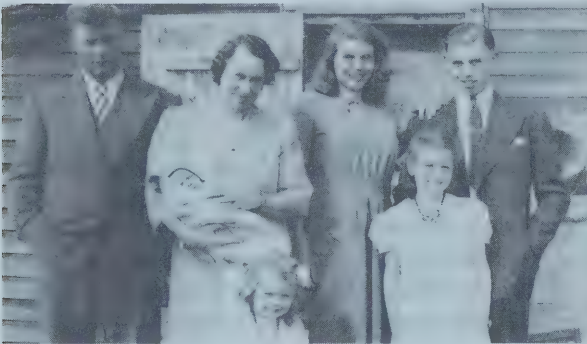
Orton and Dorothy Stephens, 1945, in front of home which had been home of grandparents, William and Dorothy Letts until 1916.



In 1919 he bought a Titan tractor, one of the first tractors in the district and did custom work. He homesteaded N.E. 25 T60 R27 W4 in 1922.

In 1928 Orton and Dorothy Letts were married. They have always lived in the Sunny Bank district. Dorothy was Secretary-Treasurer for Sunny Bank telephone company for over 20 years and also school secretary until consolidation took over. Orton served many different terms on the Boards.

Their family consists of five children. Reginald chose farming. He attended Sunny Bank public school, Westlock High and Vermillion Agricultural. Reg married Jean Sandison of Hazel Bluff and they have a family of five children: Margaret, Dwight, Clifford, Maureen and Linda. All were raised here on their Sunny Bank farm. Florence also attended Sunny Bank and Westlock School and U of A. She married Frank Lockwood of B.C. She has her master degree and has taught school all through the years. They have a family of four and now live in Medicine Hat. Mabel also attended the local schools and trained for a nurse getting her R.N. She married Larry Price of Busby. They have four children and live in Devon.



Orton Stephens family. Orton, Dorothy with baby Ken, Florence, Reg, Mabel and Sharon.

Sharon Rose also went through for a teacher. She married Don Bedier of Fort St. John. They live at Yellowknife N.W.T. They have two girls and two foster children.

Kenneth also graduated from Westlock High School. He worked at banking for a few years then changed to being appliance salesman for Sears. He married Dianne Cunningham of Westlock. They lived mostly in Whitehorse, Yukon but are now at Camrose. They have one son.

### **George and Fanny Sterling by Fanny Sterling**

George came west from the Manitoulin Island, Ontario with his parents in 1907, at the age of eigh-

teen months. He attended school at Clover Valley, the Duke of Sutherland's farm, and high school in Clyde.

He assisted his father with farm work in the summer and hauled a supply of lumber from north of Dapp to Clyde by sleigh in the winter months of 1928 to 1932. This four horse venture was the beginning of a commercial hauling career that covered a period of over fifty-five years. No hauling was done by truck in winter until the late thirties, except on main snow-ploughed roads.

Fanny and Jenny Edgson, twin girls, were born February 20, 1911, in the hamlet of Edison, three miles east of where Westlock started two years later, in 1913. Fanny attended school in Edison, Westlock high school and Vermilion Agricultural school. She was one of the first class for Grade XII taught in the Westlock High School.



George Sterling family. Back row, L to R: Leonard, David, Donald, Jack, Jim. Front: Carol, Fanny, George, Emily.

George and Fanny were married on June 6, 1933. They built a log house on their farm, NW¼-11-59-26-W4, the northeast corner of which was Clover Valley School property. In 1940 they moved to Westlock where George worked as a mechanic at Doherty's Garage. George and Fanny both drove school buses north and southwest of Westlock during 1940 and 1941. Three buses, one driven by Mr. Jim Brown and the two driven by the Sterlings, made up the complete fleet required by Westlock School at that time.

In February, 1943, George made several trips from Edmonton with building materials to Dawson Creek and up the Alaska Highway which was then under construction by the United States army. During the next ten years, hauling consisted of general trucking, including four years gas hauling to the Peace River country, all over gravel roads.

From 1953 to 1955, George had a contract with Ray Hide hauling salvage pipe off the Canol Road to Johnson's Crossing and Carcross in the Yukon Terri-

tory. The winter hauls consisted of nickel from Keno Hill and asbestos from Cassiar, B.C., both back to Whitehorse, Y.T.

On returning to Westlock in 1955, George hauled lumber, and then put in three years with General Motors hauling cars from Oshawa, Ont., to points in Alberta. Since that time, lumber, machinery and hay to Southern Alberta have occupied his trucking time. Many of the trips were made by the older sons, David being a partner for some years.

After returning to Westlock in 1955 from the Yukon, Fanny spent eighteen years with the Westlock Postal Service, and enjoyed working with Postmasters Walter Armstrong, Wilma McIntoch and Roy Barnard. Following her retirement in 1975 she found more time for her hobbies which are cake decorating, art classes and stitchery. Fanny has been a member of the Westlock W. I. for over forty years and both George and Fanny are members of the Westlock and District Old Timer's Association and the Golden Age Club.

A highlight through the years was when Fanny won the Kate Aitken prize of \$100.00 at the Toronto Exhibition for a fiftieth anniversary cake. The win was from an entry of 107 cakes.

Both George and Fanny have been fond of square-dancing, having started this recreation in Whitehorse in 1953.



George and Fanny Sterling.

Their family consisted of five sons and two daughters. **Jack**, the oldest son, attended school at Edison and Westlock, and joined the airforce at sixteen years of age. He spent several years in Eastern Canada, France, England and Germany. He married Pamela Laidlow in England and had a family of five, and they now have five grandchildren. After retiring from the airforce in Cold Lake, Alberta, he operated Lakeland Construction and now lives in Oyama, B.C. operating Sterling Construction there.

**Donald** also attended school at Edison and Westlock, then did some trucking with his Dad on the Canol Road, Y.T. After returning from the north, he married Phyllis Brown. They both work in Edmonton and live in a nice home in St. Albert.

**James** attended school at Edison and in Westlock, then took Grade X by correspondence while living in the Yukon. He chose teaching as a career, teaching in Pickardville, Clyde and Westlock High School. He and his wife, Evelyn, have a family of four and live on a farm west of Westlock.

**Emily** attended school at Edison and at Brooks Brook, Y.T. and remained at home helping with farm chores. She was killed in an accident while riding her bicycle, at the age of twenty-three.

**Carol** also attended Edison, Brooks Brook, Whitehorse and Westlock schools. After University she taught at Clyde, then Westlock Phys. Ed., then married James Sinclair of Namao. They moved to Ontario, where she taught at the airforce school, where Jim was in the airforce for five years. On returning to the west, she taught in St. Albert and now in Sherwood Park. They have three sons.

**David** went to school at Edison, Brooks Brook and Whitehorse in the Yukon, and Westlock High School. He spent several years trucking with his Dad and now works in Westlock. He is an ardent curler and golfer, as the seasons demand.



George Sterling family, 1983. L to R: Len, Dave, Don, Jack, Jim. Seated: George, Carol and Fanny.



**Leonard**, the youngest member of the family, attended school in the Yukon and Westlock High School, and later at N.A.I.T. He worked with the I.B.M. in Calgary for nine years and now lives in Sherwood Park. He married Maryanne Rosenau of Spruce Grove. They have two sons and a daughter. All members of the Sterling family are very fond of music and enjoy sports.

Through George and Fanny's forty-nine years of marriage they have resided in southern and northern parts of Alberta and the Yukon Territory. The past twenty-eight years have been spent in Westlock, and we believe there is not a better place to be found. Our parents picked it out over eighty years ago, and we still recommend it today.

### Leonard and Jenny Sterling

We were married July 20, 1938 and started farming on SW2, T60 R26, W4 on what was originally my fathers homestead. After purchasing it we grain farmed and milked six cows for six years and then decided we would like to try dairying. I remember in Grade eight having to make a booklet called, "The Cow, the Mother of Prosperity". I don't know if that was the inspiration or not, anyway we purchased twenty six cows from Arthur Guntrip when he left the community, and Len delivered milk daily from house to house in Westlock with horses and a white delivery wagon with Sunrise Dairy painted on the side. Well named, as it was 5:00 in the morning for the next twenty six years three hundred and sixty five days a year.



Len and Jenny Sterling on holiday in Hong Kong.

The Dairy Pool decided to put in a pasteurization plant and deliver milk in the town. Len was approached to sell bulk milk and took it on. In 1958 we expanded by building a loafing barn with modern pipe line system. Our herd of holsteins had increased considerably by now, and we had learned a lot by trial and error and were still young and ambitious. Mr. Ashby who had delivered milk to Westlock for years decided to retire, so Mr. Jenke bought a portion of the herd and Len the remainder. We now had a herd of 60 or more and when we retired from milking in 1964 we had 100 fine holsteins.

There was no shining stainless steel dairy pool truck driving in each morning to pick up the milk. Len had to fill, load, and deliver each morning for 26 years, 8 gallon cans. Our daughter June married Don McMillan of Busby. They did not wish to dairy farm so we decided to sell the herd, Mr. Ken Round at Clyde bought half and Mr. John MacIntyre of Hazel Bluff the other half. We did not have to go through the pains of an auction sale. It was hard to see them go but we were a bit weary of it all.

In spite of the constant work we still found time for landscaping every tree on the farm as we had started out on a bald alfalfa field. We enjoyed our walk around the garden each night, also enjoyed square dancing not too late, could still make our 5:00 a.m. schedule.



Len and Jenny Sterling with daughter June.

We enjoyed our first holiday to Australia and New Zealand, this first taste of travel gave us the bug so badly that since then we have visited every continent in the world; enjoyed them all, a pleasant change from our restricted life of 26 years. Perhaps a highlight was having tea with the queen at one of her

garden parties in 1965. Len spent over 30 years on the Fair board as director, was a life time member of United Farmers of Alberta and all the Co-ops and also was secretary for the Rural Telephone Association for thirty years. Today he enjoys his quarter horses and Belgians, making harness and restoring buggies, democrats and cutters. I made some thousand or more brides happy over the years by making and decorating their wedding cakes, all shapes, styles and colors. I really enjoy painting with the Westlock Art Club. So along with our hobbies we are still farming and as long as health permits we will remain here, as gardens and farm life are what we most enjoy in this most beautiful part of Alberta.

Our daughter June spent three years in Vermillion School of Agriculture graduating in 1958. I also graduated from V.S.A. in 1930. She is married to Don McMillan of Busby and they have a beautiful farm with a lovely garden. They have two children: Tom and Linda.

**Milton and Joyce Sterling**  
**Joyce and Milton Sterling, June 1982**  
**Boudreau Area, Farm Location N.W. 21-58-25-W4**

I, Joyce, youngest daughter of Goldie and Albert Dubois, married Milton Sterling, a local boy in September of 1972. In February of 1974, we bought the farm from my mother. On April 16, 1974 in room 313, bed #1 of Westlock Immaculata Hospital our



Milton and Joyce Sterling with Lori, Jason, Shawn and Evan. Jan., 1982.

first girl Lori was born. Twenty months later also in room 313 bed #1 of Westlock Immaculata Hospital our first son Jason was born. A coincidence you might say. Two more sons Shawn and Evan followed in 1978 and 1980 and both were also born in the same room and the same bed. They all were the first to occupy the empty nursery as well.

Milton and I have been farming the land and raising hogs, dogs, cats and kids, since the day we moved on to the farm. We have made many changes to the old farmhouse that Mom slaved in. The first change was a bathroom on the second floor. It was a long run down the two flights of stairs in the night. (The bathroom was in the basement.) Next we took out the six feet of kitchen cupboards and put in our own modern kitchen with 25 feet of cupboards. Slowly over the years we are re-doing all the rooms. What a change.

Outside Milton has modernized the hog barns and added new steel granaries. Gone are the days of long hard work on the farm. Air-conditioned cabs, power steering, hoists and augers have given man a break. Inside the house, microwaves, dishwashers, automatic clothes washers and dryers mean easier tasks for women.

I hope that some of my children can realize the importance of the farming community and perhaps carry on the farming heritage as I have.

**Rita Sterling**  
**by Fanny Sterling**

Rita Sterling was born in Billings Township, Manitoulin Island, Ontario in 1902 and came west with her parents in 1907.

She attended Edison and Clover Valley schools. On her first day at Clover Valley, six children walked across untilled land carrying home made stools, and slates, to start their day. It was a brand new frame building with bare walls.

In 1919, Rita went to Edmonton, where she



Rita Sterling.



worked for her board at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Page. She attended McDougall High School where Mr. Page was Principal. After graduating from Normal School in 1923, she left for her first school-teaching experience at Mulhurst.

She travelled by train to Millet, then twenty-five miles west by democrat to Spring Hill School. After three years at Mulhurst she returned home to teach at Clover Valley, and then to Westlock in 1929.

For the following thirty-six years, Rita taught in Westlock with only two breaks, one of which was a trip to England. During her teaching years in Westlock, she had the first classes in Home Economics, and had a definite interest in Art. She taught only Grade IX pupils for over fifteen years. She retired from teaching in 1966.

Rita was a member of the first dramatic society in Westlock, when several plays were staged in the thirties.

Rita was extremely kind, and interested in the progress and welfare of her numerous nieces and nephews, and was very much loved by them all. She spent many years living in Westlock where she cared for both her mother and father.

At the time of her death in 1969, a memorial fund was established, and a number of valuable and interesting books were placed in the Westlock Junior High School Library and also in the Westlock Community Library.

This display does indeed pay a fitting tribute to Rita Sterling whose years of devotion in her work is now reflected in the success of many of her former pupils.

## **Russell and Jean Sterling** by Jean Sterling

I, Jean Densmore, came to Westlock from Innisfree, Alberta, at the age of fifteen years. I came to my Aunt Daisy Platt's home in 1927, then worked for Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hide for three and a half years, as a young girl. They treated me like a daughter.

From there I spent several years working for people in the area, helping with house work, farm chores and helping in a home where there was a new baby. At times I worked for my board, but I found them all very wonderful people, so the money received was not the important thing.

The young people travelled in groups to house parties, clubs, sleigh rides and dances. Very few had cars, so in winter we travelled by sleighs, singing as we went, over roads never cleared by a snowplow. A few upsets resulted but there were never any injuries. Hazel Bluff was the centre for many functions.

In 1932 I went to work for Mrs. Jorgenson and her three daughters in Westlock, where I spent two very



Aubrey, Vera and Keith Sterling in front of their first home. 1939.

happy years. It was while I was there that I met my future husband, Russell Sterling, who at that time, was teaching at Baptiste Lake School, just west of Athabasca.

Russell came west from Ontario as a little boy of three. He attended school at Clover Valley and Clyde High School, then went on to teach school for a number of years. Russell and I were married on July 4, 1934, at the manse across from the Catholic Church in Westlock, and went to Baptiste to our first home of logs with a big stone fireplace.



Farming near Westlock.

Russell taught grades from one to nine, and also assisted a girl to complete her high school. He received \$750.00 a year. The neighbors were very good to us and we received many gifts of butter, eggs and vegetables. The next year we had a splendid garden and wild raspberries, blueberries and saskatoons supplemented our diet.

Russell made and sold several cedar chests to make a little extra money. Our son, Aubrey, was born November 2, 1935, and a daughter, Vera, arrived in 1937. At this time Russell's father was not too well; he asked Russell to come down to Westlock to help with the farming. We moved in June of 1939, living in a granary until November, while we built a one room dwelling which later became a garage. We moved into our present home in 1948.

Russell started keeping bees with two hives in 1934 at Athabasca, then five the next year, continuing at Westlock with ten hives, later increasing to one hundred hives with equipment expanding in the same way. The first honey was sold at five cents a pound. Russell was a bee inspector for twenty years and was associated with the Alberta Honey Producers Co-operative.

He was instrumental in getting 75 signees for the Clyde Rural Electrification Association, which resulted in power reaching every farm in the area. He also worked on the school board for many years, encouraging the music program, which continued through the years in the form of bands and good music instruction.



Mrs. Russell Sterling and family. Back row: Charles, Keith, Roy, Aubrey, Jean (Mother), Harvey, Milton, Brent. Front: Bertha, Betty, Ivan, Joan, Vera. Insert: Russell (Father), (deceased).

We had a family of twelve children, four girls and eight boys. Aubrey, an electrician, lives in Edmonton with his wife, Diane, and they have two boys and a girl. Vera married Doug Brown, and they farm at Busby. They have two sons and two daughters. Keith and Gale live in Edmonton, where he manages the Edmonton Stockyards. They have two sons. Harvey and Marilyn have a son and a daughter; Harvey teaches school in the city. Roy is Associate Manager of the Alberta Honey Co-op. He and Ericka have two boys and two girls and live at Spruce Grove. Betty and Harvey Brinton live in Edmonton, have two sons, and Betty works in the Bank of Montreal. Joan and Ken Pankonin have three sons and live just across the field from the home farm. Charles and Judy live north of Clyde; Charles works for the Department of Agriculture, and they have two boys and two girls. Brent operates the home farms now; the third generation on the homestead. Milton and Joyce live at Vimy, where he farms and continues his electrical career. They have three boys and a girl. Bertha and Bernie Kashbohm live north of Westlock where they farm, with two little sons and a daughter. Ivan and Teresa live on an acreage off the homestead. He is a heavy duty mechanic, working in Morinville.

The family are all willing to help in farm operations; all are very fond of music, with two orchestras among them, that play for dances, weddings and parties.

Russell died in 1966 very suddenly, while five of the children were still in school. With good cooperation among the family members, and living among good neighbors, I was able to carry on. I now have thirty-two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

### **William and Eva Sterling** submitted by Fanny Sterling

William Sterling moved, with his parents, from Philadelphia, U.S.A. to Manitoulin Island, Ontario, when only an infant. His father died in 1883, leaving William, a boy of twelve, to help his mother and the three younger children to eke out a living on a stony, unproductive farm. He married Eva Spry in 1900 and in 1907, with four children, Rae, Rita, Russell and George, they moved to the West. A brother-in-law, Harry Cannard, had gone west on harvest excursions for two years to scout for suitable land, so with his findings, the two families left by train for Edmonton. Each family took a team of horses, a plow, wagon, democrat and some household furniture.

The Sterlings travelled by passenger train, reaching Edmonton several days before the freight train carrying their settlers effects. Harry Cannard and his son Myron were travelling on the freight to take care





Mr. and Mrs. William Sterling.

of the livestock, which had to be fed and watered "en route".

Mrs. Sterling and her children stayed in the Immigration Hall in Edmonton for several days while William walked the sixty miles to the Edison Settlement, following the bush trails. He found a house owned by Arthur Edgson, two miles west of Clyde, that was available for his family to live in, so he returned to Edmonton for his family.

They loaded their belongings in the two wagons in January, 1907, and drove, in springlike weather, out to the Edgson home, where they spent some time while Mr. Sterling did some freighting. They rented Mike Alton's farm at Edison Corner for a year and in 1911 moved to the homestead on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -12-59-26-W4th.

Three more children, Leonard, Ruby and Gordon were born there. The children attended school at Clover Valley, and at the Duke of Sutherland's farm, and received high school at Clyde and Westlock.

The Sterlings took extreme pride in raising fine Clydesdale and Percheron horses, entering them, with good harness, at the Westlock and District Agricultural Fair. They placed first with an eight-horse team in 1933, competing with Pat Burns. Mr. Sterling (Bill, as he was best known) farmed well, putting emphasis on plowing a straight furrow and raising clean, good quality grain.



W. M. Sterling and oldest son, Russell.

Daughter Rae died a young lady when her daughter was born.

Rita taught school for years, and Russell taught school for a few years then became a farmer and beekeeper. George farmed and turned to trucking. Leonard became a farmer and operated a dairy. Ruby taught school and then moved to Edmonton, and later, to Peachland, B.C. Gordon spent many years with the Department of Agriculture, he is now retired and lives at Peachland, B.C.

In 1940, Mr. and Mrs. Sterling and Rita, who was teaching in Westlock, took up residence in Westlock. Mrs. Sterling died at the age of sixty-six, in 1945. Mr. Sterling could be seen for several years, driving out to his farm on his Ford tractor, to continue working on the land. He died in 1959 at the age of eighty eight years. Stories of the family members will be related elsewhere in this book.

## Stewart Family by Doreen O'Brien

Wilson Stewart was born in Northern Ireland on June 2, 1888. He served with the Royal Irish Rifles in the First World War, and was a prisoner of war for thirteen months. He married Sarah Brownlow in Ireland. In 1929 he emigrated to Canada with his wife and two sons, Robert seven years of age and John five years. They came over on a North Star Line Co. ship named the "Albertic". Sarah chose this ship



Wilson Stewart family. Front Row: Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Stewart. Back row, L to R: John, Doreen (O'Brien) and Robert. Taken in 1960.

because it reminded her of the name Alberta, where they were going.

They arrived at Busby by train, in the spring of 1929, where they were met by James Findlay, in a team and wagon. The roads were not gravelled at that time so they were in pretty bad shape. The horses plowed through the mud to about ten miles west of Busby, to a farm at Dunstable. After working here they moved to the Pickardville district, where they lived for about twenty-five years. In 1935 their daughter, Doreen, was born with Dr. L. Kickham in attendance.



John Stewart ready for the field.

In the fall of 1955 Mr. and Mrs. Stewart moved to Westlock. As Wilson was not one to be happy being idle, he soon found a job at the Triple J Auction Mart with Jim Jarvis. He enjoyed his work very much but was forced to retire in 1959, due to ill health. He passed away November 2, 1960, at the age of seventy-two.



Four generations in the Wilson Stewart family. Gr. Grandma, Sarah Stewart; Grandmother, Doreen O'Brien; Mother, Lynda Krysa and baby Dale Krysa.

On moving to Westlock, Sarah was able to pick up her interest in the church choir. She sang here in the United Church choir for several years, until she was not able to attend due to arthritis. She was also a member of the Echo Hill W.I. in earlier years.

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart took great pride in their garden.

Sarah passed away on August 11, 1983.

### John Stewart by Robert Stewart

My brother John worked around here until he joined the army. There were four of us joined at the same time, my brother and I and Bert and Tom



McConaghy. John and Tom went overseas but I didn't make it. John was with the Canadian Armored Tank Corps. He saw action in Belgium, France, Holland and Germany and was wounded just prior to VE Day. After the war he moved to Jasper, Alberta, where he married Dorothy Gordon. They had three daughters; Irene, Heather and Jackie. They moved to McBride, B.C., where he lived until he passed away in 1968 at the age of forty-four. He was a great lover of horses, and started the McBride Saddle Club. He was also active in other community organizations. His widow and daughters still reside at McBride.

## Doreen Stewart by herself

I was born January 12, 1935 in the Immaculata Hospital in Westlock. Dr. L. Kickham assisted me into the world. My dad brought my mother to Westlock with a team and sleigh, a distance of about seven miles. It was very cold, 35 to 40 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit. Not being familiar with the town, he asked some people where the hospital was. They were Mr. and Mrs. St. John, who were headed for the hospital, also. Their daughter was born the same day. Being the only girl, and a late one, I got three names. My third name, Patricia, was for a sister at the hospital, who was very kind to mother when she arrived, chilled right through, I'm sure!



L to R: Doreen Stewart-O'Brien, Mrs. Sarah Stewart, Mr. Wilson Stewart. Picture taken about 1943.

As time passed, I finally started at Vermilion Springs School in 1941. By this time my brothers were grown up. Miss Dorothy Watson (now Mrs. Bob McLaughlin) was my first teacher. She also taught me grade two. Other teachers were E. Armstrong from Saskatchewan, for about four months, Miss Marjory Shamchuk from Edmonton, for a year and five months, Miss Sophie Derko from Legal, who taught me for two years. She taught most of us how to knit (the boys as well as the girls). Miss

Harley Gillmore from Pickardville was a substitute teacher for two weeks, and Mrs. Donilda Stewart for a few weeks. Mrs. Sam Yoemans taught me grade seven and half of grade eight in 1947 and 1948. The school was closed at this time and the pupils transferred to Pickardville or Busby. Some of the other pupils attending this school at the same time as I was were Alice, Eva, David and Lawrence Tally; Olive, Joyce, Everett, Norma and Pat Kelly; George and Donald McMillan, and Wayne from the other McMillan family; Charlie, Jay, Allan, Carol and Lois Yoemans; Hertha, Alfred, Stanley, Douglas and Helen Durstling; Ferman, Leon, Jean, Rita and Rosanna Provost; Edna, Lloyd, Olive and Gloria Tally; Bill, Alice and Johnny Walker; Lois and Lucy McConaghy; Florine Seibert; Ralph Phillips; Norman Johnson and Christine Rosendale. During my seven and a half years attending this school, I walked, rode a horse or a bicycle in order to get there. In winter time we would have to keep our coats and boots on in school until the old heater would throw out enough heat to enable us to take them off. There were also the old "shacks" out back that we had to run to, and the water to bring from about a quarter of a mile away.

Christmas was always a happy time. Going for the tree, decorating it and practicing for the concert itself was a great excitement. Of course, the concert itself topped it all. I can almost smell the spruce tree and the oranges, and see the parents and friends smiling with glee as we performed. The baseball games with Springfield and Trails End schools were other great times in our lives. We often went on hikes, which were enjoyed by all (but writing a paragraph about the hike when we returned was not).

To raise money, we held pie socials, card parties and raffles, which were well supported by the community. The Tallys would often entertain with their musical instruments and songs. The school is still on its original site, and has been restored with a lot of original articles being placed there.

Before going any further, I should mention remembering my mother washing with the scrub board, canning fruit and vegetables, also meat, going to the store with the horse and cutter in the winter and putting a heated stone in the bottom of the cutter to keep our feet warm. On cold days I remember staying at Mrs. Cromie's until mother returned.

From Vermilion Springs I went on to Busby School for the remainder of grade eight and grades nine and ten. Mrs. Hunter was the teacher there. The three-act plays will always stick out in my mind as a remembrance of school life there. Bill Greiner, George McMillan, Sheila Anderson and myself, from the same class, went on to Westlock High



L to R: Linda O'Brien (Krysa), Ann O'Brien.

School. Mr. O. W. Elliott and then Russell Legault were our bus drivers.

R. F. Staples was our principal. Other teachers at this time were: G. B. Brimacombe, G. H. Desson, Mrs. J. D. Armstrong, Miss C. Coraini, W. P. Sharek, Wm. Learner, and Miss B. Barker. This school was quite a change with the many teachers we had in one day, compared to only one teacher (up till now) for the whole term.

The following list of students are the twenty-four graduands of 1953, from Westlock High School:

Sheila Anderson, Lin Beairsto, Shirley Bishop, Mavis Burchett, Jeannine Cloutier, Keith Fenton, John Gerun, Bill Greiner, Ann Kickham, Park Letts, Bill Luka, Gerry McGlone, George McMillan, Herb Missal, Edith Nelson, Ruby Raines, Bea Robins, Roberta Sawyer, Pat Seskus, Betty Staples, Doreen Stewart, Kay Watt, June Wikner, Lorna Wingrove.

I'm sure we all left with fond memories and lasting friendships, to go our separate ways.

In September of the same year I started working at the Immaculata Hospital in the admitting office with Sister Lawrence and Miss Hilda Doyle. I started out getting one hundred dollars a month, working six days a week. I later got a raise to one hundred and twenty-five dollars a month. I paid fifteen dollars a month for meals at the hospital and fifteen dollars a month for a room from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sumner which was located one block east of the funeral

home. The funeral home at that time was operated by Mr. Harry Peters and Mr. Hunter. I shared my room with Carol Chvojka and later with Lloy Hartman. The first night or so in town I stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Kunelius. During the time I worked at the hospital we were saddened by the passing of Dr. L. Kickham and Dr. F. Woodman. There were just the two clinics at that time, the Kickham Clinic and the Whissell Clinic. I remember how terrible the polio epidemic was then, and think now how very lucky those of us were who didn't contract it.

In 1954 I married Leo O'Brien of Vimy. We were married at the Westlock United Church, with the reception at the Pickardville Hall. We lived on the O'Brien farm at Vimy until January, 1964, when we sold the farm and moved to Westlock. Our two daughters, Ann and Linda, were born in Westlock Hospital. Dr. J. K. Deacon assisted at their births. Ann is an R. N. A. at Immaculata Hospital. Linda is married to Gordy Krysa and they have one son, Dale. Linda is working at the Auxiliary Hospital.

I worked as casual help at the Post Office with Wilma McIntosh as Postmistress from 1963 and later with Roy Barnard as Postmaster until 1979. It is an honor to be able to add my memories to the Westlock History Book.

## Robert Stewart

I (Robert) was born in 1922 in Ireland and came to Canada in 1929, just before the "hungry thirties." I remember the trip over here. It took us seven days and seven nights on the boat. We landed in Halifax, where we spent about ten days waiting for our papers to be cleared. There were Mum and Dad and my brother John. We came by train to Edmonton, where we spent another five days at the immigration hall. After everything was cleared, we came by train to Busby, Alberta, where we were met by a farmer who was living ten miles west and one mile south of Busby. He picked us up with a team and wagon. The roads were mud up to the axles. We lived at his farm for about a year before moving to the Pickardville district, where we lived from then on. I and John went to school at the Vermilion Springs school. We had a mile and a half to walk. I had been to school in Ireland but had to start all over again here. Mom used to walk with us when we started, because some of the kids used to pick on us, as we were new to their school, from Ireland. My first teacher was Miss Blue. Other teachers were Miss Acre, Miss Settle, Mr. Pete Gray and Miss Krull (now Mrs. Loyd McMillan). Miss Settle was from Edmonton. I remember we had to take a team of horses and pull her car to the highway when she went home for the



weekend, and meet her again on Sunday night. The roads were drifted full of snow. We were janitors for a while so had to be at school first, to get the fire going, and bring in the wood and coal. I can remember breaking the ice on the water fountain before we could get a drink, and putting our sandwiches on top of the stove to thaw them out for lunch. In summer we used to hit for the old swimming hole on McMillan's land. It's a wonder some of us didn't get drowned. Sometimes we weren't very nice. We used to snare rabbits and let them loose in the school, and also catch mice and put them in the teacher's desk. We all got the strap for this, and also for smoking. Some of the kids that I went to school with were the Seiberts, McConaghys, Newtons, Munros, Provosts, McDonalds, Valequettes, Phillips, Tallys and Rosendales.

When I was small we had a fire on the farm. The folks were burning stubble, and the fire got away from them. The barn burned down, and some horses and pigs also got burned.

The only show we saw in those days was the John Deere Show. When it came to town, almost everyone travelled to town with horses to see it. There were very few cars in the country at that time.

I left school at fourteen, and went to work for different farmers in the district. On my first job I got five dollars a month for doing the chores. I delivered milk to Pickardville, and worked at cleaning grain for farmers. I also worked on a water well drilling machine. We had lots of fun at threshing time. Some of the bosses would buy a keg of beer after the run. Once we stopped in the bar — and lost the oil wagon about a mile down the road! There were lots of barn dances in those days. Anybody who could play a musical instrument would play it as part of the "orchestra." Nobody had much money, but we always had lots of good times, and lots to eat. It was a good life.

In 1949 I married June Sapkos of Edmonton, but split the blanket seventeen years later. We had four children: Larry, Frank, Valerie and Tina. They are all living in Edmonton. After I was married I worked on the section for about a year, then moved to Edmonton, where I lived for thirty years. One Sunday I went for a drive, and came home to find our house was gone; burned to the ground. It was quite a shock. We had to live in a hotel for a time, but people were really good helping us to get started again. I worked for the City of Edmonton for twenty-two years before moving to Westlock, where I have been working for the Westlock School Division for the last two years. My present wife is Delphine Courtepatte from the Timue district.

## Floyd Stratton by himself

I have just finished reading the book "North-west of Sixteen" and this brought many memories back to me as I was born in Sunniebend, Alberta.

My father had married a widow with two children and they moved from Wyoming, U.S.A. to Alberta. I am not too sure whether the main purpose was to work on the railroad or to file on a homestead, as he did both.



Floyd Stratton home.

In October, 1912, my father filed for a homestead SE¼ 35-60-27-W4 and had it patented in September 1918. I was born in 1914 in Sunniebend, on the Maier's place, which my parents were renting prior to going to their own homestead. My three younger brothers were born on the homestead.

I started school two different times but, due to severe weather, I could not continue. My recollection of the area is that we had to walk one mile south and one mile west to attend Sunny Bank School. However, in good weather we could cut across country which made the distance much shorter.

I can remember the telephone wires — two on a pole — this used to fascinate me. I do remember one



Mrs. Floyd Stratton feeding her poultry.

Christmas at the school, very vaguely. The harvesting of grain is another memory, especially the large steam engine that used to do the threshing.

The little creek that flowed through our place joined the Pembina and there we would catch suckers and pike.

The only neighbours I can remember were the McCrae's, and Henry Hanson. Henry lived in a small house across the road from us. His brother, Gary, was also a friend of mine. I don't remember where he lived.

I am quite sure I can remember old Doc Phillips. He used to pass our house with his horse and buggy, and if any of us was in need of doctoring, we just waved him in.

Ed Short and my folks were old time friends. Both my youngest brother and myself have visited the Shorts and the area in the last few years. Ed Short told my brother, Bill, that he was at the homestead when Bill was born, and he and the doctor sat waiting, trying to decide whether to move Mother and the newly-born child as a bad prairie fire was burning nearby. That was in September of 1921. Once Ed told Bill that he had lived there (at Sunniebend) for 80 years and he said, "My name is Short but not for long."

While visiting in the area we located the old homestead — there are no original buildings standing, but we were shown where the original well had been. Henry Hanson's shack across the road is still standing.

The only recollection I have of Sunniebend is that when we were staying overnight with friends, I was awakened in the morning by someone shooting at wolves on the Pembina River, which was frozen over. The house was two storeys high and we were sleeping upstairs. I can also remember visiting neighbours in the wintertime in a sled in which a huge rock that had been heated in the oven all day, was placed. We would be covered with a pile of blankets and would lie back and watch the stars as we travelled.

We left Alberta about January, 1922. The main reason, I think, was because of the poor prices for grain and other farm products. (As I was only eight years old when we moved to Washington from Alberta, my memory is somewhat limited.

## **Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Sutherland and Family**

**by Marion Sutherland**

I have a plaque on my kitchen wall the inscription there on reads, we do not remember days, we remember moments. If this be true, then the book you are reading — a History of Westlock — is compiled of valued moments in the lives of people who pioneered

our Town, and of their descendents, of people who have contributed to the growth and development of the district. I shall endeavour then to add a few more, some of the specifics of the Alex. Sutherland Family.

It was in July 1928 that Alex and Ann Elizabeth, accompanied by their two younger sons arrived in Westlock, Alex to take over the position as grain-buyer for the Alberta Pool Elevator. Robert was thirteen and the little towhead Donald was just four. Their oldest son Wilmer (Bill) having gone to Normal School had accepted a position as a teacher in Didsbury. Ivan second in line remained with his brother to complete his grade twelve, this grade not being offered here in Westlock at the time.

They remained in Westlock for the following two years, and then a position with the same company was open in the town of Spruce Grove. The proximity to Edmonton and the availability of the University had an influence on this move, anticipating the further education of their sons. They had only been in Spruce Grove a few months when Mr. Sutherland suffered a stroke and was severley incapacitated. His working days were over.



Alex Sutherland Family. L to R: Robert, Wilmer and Alex, Annie, Donald and Ivan. Taken in 1929 at Amos Studios, Westlock.



In 1930 Ivan, upon completion of his year at Normal School applied to the Westlock School Board and was accepted to teach in the elementary grades. The family decided to return to Westlock and start life anew. There were difficult times for the next few years.

Mrs. Sutherland, who was a very gifted woman, took to her sewing machine to help supplement the family income, and Robert with whatever odd jobs he could find to do after school hours and on Saturdays. In those times there was usually wood to be split and piled, water to be hauled, and in the fall odd jobs with harvesting crews.

Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland had over the years instilled in their sons a keen interest in sports of all kinds, it kept teenage boys well occupied. There was not only sporting activities for the lads but involvement in the Church, cubs, scouts, tuxis and young peoples organizations — a pretty well rounded out education.

Bill and Ivan played both hockey and baseball for teams in Olds and Ponoka, and a little later on, for the South Side Arctics ball team.

While in Didsbury Bill met and married Laura Smith. They have a daughter, Shirley Anne. Bill taught in Didsbury, then in Ponoka and in a few years became Principal of the school. Some time in the fall of 1942 he enlisted in the airforce, trained as a navigator and served throughout the remaining war years as a Navigational Instructor. His wife and daughter lived on in their home at Ponoka until the end of the war. Shortly thereafter Bill purchased a tobacco and confectionary business in the town of Vermilion.

Shirley finished her schooling there and then went to University graduated with a B. Sc. in nursing. She met a dentistry graduate, Don Lemiski; they were married in October of that year and moved out to Vernon B.C. to establish a business and home there. They had four children, three sons and a daughter, Doug, David, Bill, and Carol. Their grandparents Laura and Bill still live in Vermilion.

Ivan taught in Westlock from 1930 to 1942. He married Mary Franks of Cardston. In May of 1942 a daughter, Margaret Ellen, arrived. Ivan decided to leave the teaching profession and went out to Ocean Falls B.C. starting his career in the pulp and paper industry. He learned every facet of that business and worked his way up the ladder, becoming manager of the St. Regis mill at Hinton Alberta. In later years he also became a director on the board of the New York Office of St. Regis. He retired from Hinton and made his home in Nanaimo B.C. Ivan passed away in January 1982. While here in Westlock Ivan played ball and hockey and curling and golf, coached basketball, was a keen competitor and a very dedicated teacher.



Sutherland Family. Shirley in Robert's arms, Laura, Wilmer, Donald, Ivan, Mary, Alex and Annie.

Margaret Ellen completed her schooling at Hinton and became a Physiotherapist. She married George Pederson and they live in Sherwood Park. They have two boys and a girl, Todd, Robert, and Lisa.

For Mrs. Sutherland the church was a very integral part of her life and she served it well, as a Sunday school teacher, choir member, ardent worker in the ladies aid and missionary society, also as a member of the session of the United Church. Many a new comer will remember their welcome to the "fold" by her cheery greeting and warm handshake. To be sure she was a fine cook and there was many a delicious cake and other goodies served at elaborate "teas" held in town which came from her kitchen. Always she was a dear companion to her husband who sat in his favorite chair near her sewing machine while she chatted with him as she sewed. In the summertime one would find him often on the front porch enjoying the fresh air, watching people going by or children at play.

Alex Sutherland passed away in March 1942, his wife Annie (as most people called her) in June of 1970.

Their youngest son Donald, like his big brothers, had a natural aptitude for sports, became a very fine athlete. Don, after finishing high school joined the air force, I think in the spring of 43. He became a pilot and instructed until the end of the war. He went to university graduating in commerce in 1949. He and Margaret Mulloy of Wetaskiwin, another commerce graduand, were married that summer. They moved to Calgary when Don started work with an Oil company — by the name of City Services. A daughter Dianna, was born in May 1951, a son Donald, on December 28, a month after his father's tragic death November 28, 1952. Don and three companions were enroute to the Gray Cup game in Toronto when their plane disappeared over Lake Superior.

Dianna is married to Stuart Gossen; they and their two little lads live in Calgary.

Donald Jr. is also living in Calgary where he is employed in the office of one of the oil companies situated in that fair city.

Robert (Bob) completed his schooling here in Westlock, being in the — first grade twelve class. During the summer and following winter he worked at whatever jobs were available. One of them happened to be driving the north route school bus. He recalls one harrowing experience, the time the steering wheel litterly came off in his hands. The bus veered for the ditch gently easing over against the bank. No one was hurt, startled and scared no doubt. Bob walked back to town, picked up another vehicle, then back to the waiting children and delivered them safely home. The next spring he took employment at the Burns Creamery washing cream cans. He related another episode that happened while he was there. The story goes: a shipment of butter was packed and ready to be picked up by the truck when someone alerted the staff that a skunk was sniffing its way along the side of the building. Mr. Gilchrist the manager, became a "little" excited, rushed around closing windows and doors. Just as he had accomplished said task he looked out the window just in time to see "Cotton Top" Manning, who having spotted the intruding animal, pick up a stone — took aim and fired before any one could say stop. The rock found its target, the animal keeled over not so much as lifting a hair let alone tail. Mr. Gilchrist bolted out the door scoop shovel in hand, lifted the lifeless "kitty" and in Olympian style, was seen running down the road to the nearest bushes. The butter was saved.

In the fall of 1934 Bob started working for Mr. D. M. Torrie in the Rexall Drug Store. During these years there was always time to play baseball and hockey. There was good friendly rivalry with surrounding communities, so many an exciting game was enjoyed.

When Bob and my brother Warren occasionally reminisce about those "fun" days, the trip to Cadomin comes to light. They left Westlock at midnight in order to catch the train in Edson the following day at one p.m. It had rained, there was no black top, there was no gravel either, they travelled as fast as mud permitted, but to no avail. They arrived in Edson after the scheduled departure of the train to Cadomin. However to their surprise the train had been held awaiting their arrival. It would seem that the boys had a little trouble playing on a "gravelly" ball diamond, where the ball would ricochet off a rock over their heads. However a good effort was made, but their opponents had the advantage. The

story was different when the two teams met in the Provincial finals again the following year, this time in Westlock.

While in Cadomin that year they were treated most royally, even given a tour of one of the mines. Some-where among our souvenirs there is a snapshot of the team, smiling faces blackened with coal dust.

Sometimes the hockey teams would run into rather adverse conditions on their forays. There was a scheduled game in Athabasca, the night was cold, however that was no deterrent to this hardy young team, arriving in Athabasca to discover that it was even colder, the temperature was sixty degrees below zero. There was no covered arena. The teams found the ice so hard their skates would scarcely hold, so after much sliding and falling, one of the Westlock forwards removed his skates and finished the game in his overshoes. The trip home was no less frustrating for they ran into fog which impeded their progress somewhat, the driver edging his way slowly along the ditch. Apparently the more youthful driver of the second car became impatient, sped passed and straight on down a side road off a curve he couldn't see. When the first car came to the curve here stood one of the other passengers waiting a ride home. I guess he decided that slow and steady was the better course.



Christmas, 1962. Mabel and Dios Smith. Lovisa McEachern and Annie Sutherland.



Bob tells of the purchase of the land for the golf course. The money for the purchase was put up by Dr. L. Kickham and Mr. Torrie. Bob, among other enthusiasts, spent a good many hours brushing out the fairways.

So much for sports, the young people enjoyed dancing as in every generation, and there was plenty of opportunity to do this as well. Westlock had its share of talented young musicians who provided the music, the girls brought the lunch and the gents paid for the hall, a great time was had by all.

Bob went to University in the fall of 1938 and the night before he left, several of his friends clerking in the stores, picked him up after work, took him out for coffee then gave him a whooping ride down main street in a wheel barrow (which I wouldn't be surprised if it came from Renaud's Hardware being as how Rudy was a close friend) as a send off.

He graduated in 1940 and returned to work with Mr. Torrie. In 1952 Bob bought into the business when the Torrie family moved to Victoria, B.C. In 1965 the old building which had been standing since 1913 or 14, was torn down and a new one erected in its place. This involved moving into temporary premises until the building was completed. I know that there are still some of the people around who were on staff at the time. They along with family and friends helped in the "horrendous" task of moving. I expect they remember it all too well. The transition back took place on the weekend of the first of November, a beautiful warm Indian summer. We trundled back and forth with borrowed grocery carts laden full of merchandise, with truck loads, and arms full, any possible means of conveyance. The last few loads were completed on the Tuesday morning and about eleven a.m. the winter winds started blowing and a blizzard was upon us.

Over the years Bob always found time to be involved in community activities. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, was a member of the Elks, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Curling Club, Golf club, serving on the executive of all of these organizations. He is a member of the United Church and devoted time and effort to it as well. He also took his turn on town council as well as the Mayors office for one term.

Bob and I were married in 1942, a lovely lawn wedding at my parents home, the same setting, more or less, as their wedding in July 1914. After a trip to Jasper we came home to Westlock which has truly been home to us. We have three children Donna, Ian and Linda.

Donna completed her schooling here and then took her nursing training at the University Hospital graduating with the class of 1964 the same year she

and Victor Krushell were married and they moved to Red Deer where Vic was working for C.K.R.D.T.V. They lived there for one year then Vic accepted the opportunity to come to C.F.R.N.T.V. They have four children, three boys and one girl, Jay, Jeff, Tracy and Gary. Seven years ago they came back to Vic's family farm at Linaria to enjoy the good rural life.

Ian, our son, upon completion of high school went to work for the Bank of Montreal. In 1967 he joined the R.C.M.P. He married his high school sweetheart Heather Bigg in 1969. After several moves around Canada they have just taken up residence in the city of Red Deer. They have three children two boys and a girl, David, Darin and Robyn Rae.

Linda, our youngest daughter graduated from high school, went on to university, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Psychology. She then worked for a couple of years, returning to university again to get her degree in the faculty of Social Work. She is at present working at the Alberta Hospital.

Bob retired from the Drug Store in 1972 after 38 years. We catch ourselves on the odd occasion thinking of the (good old days), we think of the times when we would have to go down to stoke the coal fires at the store at night before retiring, of the Saturday midnight closing, (you see in those days people liked to come into town in the evening to shop and meet their friends), then the 9 p.m. closing finally the sheer joy to be able to close the doors at 6 p.m. and have a Saturday evening at home. The drug store was open every night until 8 p.m. and he was on call twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, just as the Doctors were. This was the way of life in a busy community that answered the needs of a large area.

Bob is enjoying retirement finding time to read as much as he likes, for he has always been an avid reader with a keen interest in History and the current affairs of the day. The sporting interests are still much a part of his life, tho' in a less active manner and there is no lack of this entertainment for once baseball comes, can football be far behind or hockey. They are all there and as close as our t.v. in the livingroom.

I hope that in relating the above story I have been able to give the readers a wee glimpse into the lives of the Sutherland family and an insight of the earlier years here in Westlock. I recall the 'clip clop', of horse hooves as Mr. Ashby delivered milk, the sound and cry of alert when the occasional team and wagon ran away. I remember the skating rink and the fun we had, the dances in the old U.F.A. hall, the musical festivals, the state of the streets as, and after, the water and sewer were being installed. There are so

many moments that come to mind, funny ones, happy ones, sad ones. Moments shared with family, friends and acquaintances. I am so glad that Mother and Dad Sutherland chose to come to Westlock for their coming has enriched my life.

Would that one might view the future, I wonder what Westlock will be like in another 50 years.

## **The Roland Swaren Family** **by Mrs. K. Swaren**

Roland and Katherine Swaren came to Westlock in 1951 with their one year old son, Ronald, originally from Camrose where Roland was employed with Calgary Power. In 1948, when Roland was promoted to district manager, they moved to Redwater where they lived for two years. An opening for a manager position was available in Westlock. Roland was accepted and the family moved and settled on 105th Street. In 1959 they built a new home and moved to 104th Street, where they reside to the present time. Roland and Katherine found Westlock an ideal town to settle in and bring up a family, a town with many friendly folks.



Rolly and Kitty Swaren on their wedding day, Sept. 2, 1947.

Roland was born in Camrose in 1925, the youngest of nine children of Alfred and Ida Swaren. He attended the John Russel Elementary School and High School in Camrose. At the outbreak of war he decided that he would like to serve his country and at the age of seventeen years he joined the Royal Canadian Navy. He served overseas as an Able Seaman in World War II, and took part in the "D" Day invasion

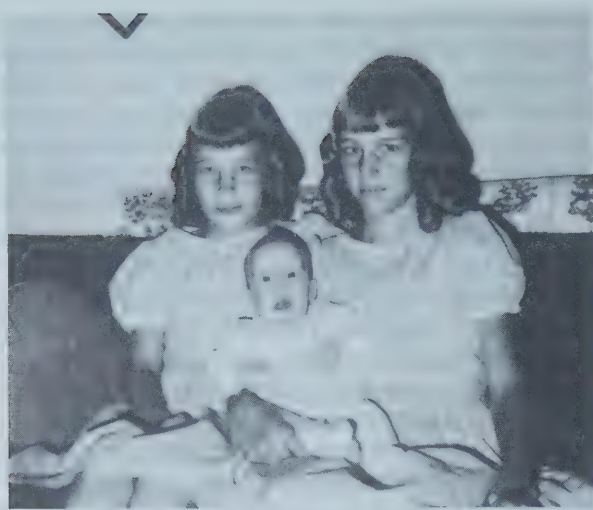
in 1944, a crew member of the landing craft. Roland served his country until his discharge from service when the war ended. He came back home to settle after the war. Having electrical experience during his service in the Navy, he chose to work in the electrical field and was accepted with Calgary Power where he has been employed up to the present time.

Roland met and married Katherine Hayduk, the second eldest of Paul and Annie Hayduk's six children, formerly from the Round Hill area. Katherine was born in Kalnikow, Poland in 1925, and immigrated to Canada with her mother and eldest brother in 1927. Her father immigrated to Canada earlier and sent for his family. He wanted to find a better way of life for his family, and Canada was a land of promise and opportunity. Katherine lived on a farm in the Round Hill area and attended a small country school at Lake De-May where grades one to eight were taught in one classroom. Katherine walked two and a half miles to school each day. Roland and Katherine were married in Camrose in 1947, where they made their first home. Upon promotion, they moved to Redwater where they lived for two years. Their first child, son Ronald, was born in Radway hospital in 1950. They moved to Westlock in 1951 where they reside up to the present time. Calgary Power, where Roland is employed, was changed to Trans-Alta Utilities in 1982.

Roland and Katherine (known to all their friends as Rolly and Kitty) have five children. Ronald Swaren, the eldest, has two sons and lives in Calgary. Ronald is a graduate from the University of Alberta in Geology and is presently the manager of Canadian Occidental Coal Co. in Calgary. Ronald was born in Redwater in 1950 and attended school at the Westlock Public and Saint Mary Separate Schools. Ron was active in Boy Scouts and is a recipient of the Queen Scout Award, which is the highest achievement award in Scouting. Linda, the second eldest, is married to Dwayne Bolkowy of Grimshaw. Linda was born in Westlock in 1952, and attended both the Westlock Public and Saint Mary Separate schools. Linda was very active in Girl Guides, and was the first to receive the Gold Cord award in Westlock, which is the highest achievement award in Guiding. Linda and Dwayne are both graduates from the University of Alberta in Education and are on the teaching staff in Westlock. Linda teaches kindergarten and Dwayne teaches junior high at Saint Mary School. Dwayne is very active in hockey and was on the University of Alberta Golden Bears' team while attending University. Linda and Dwayne have two sons. They reside in Westlock and both are active in the community.

Becky, the third eldest, is married to Daryl Ric-





Rolly Swaren family. Sisters, L to R: Becky, Linda, Anita.



Rolly Swaren family, taken Christmas, 1965. L to R, back row: Becky, Ron, Linda. Front row: Anita and Morley. Family pets Sylvester the cat and Scamp the dog.

ciuti of Calgary. Becky was born in Westlock in 1954. She too attended both Westlock Public and Saint Mary Separate schools. Becky, like her older sister, was active in Girl Guides and was also a recipient of the Gold Cord award. Becky is a graduate of the University of Alberta in Dental Hygiene and a Gold Medal Award recipient in her field. Daryl is a graduate from SAIT in Structural Engineering. They are both employed in Calgary where they make their home. The fourth of the Swaren children, Morley, was born in 1959 in Westlock. Morley attended Saint Mary Separate School. He was very active in Scouting, and like his brother and sisters, he received the highest achievement award in Scouting. This was changed from Queen Scout award to Pathfinder award. Morley is very active in sports and partici-

pates on M.B.M. Edmonton Men's Volleyball Team. Morley also received his education at the University of Alberta, and is a graduate with distinction in Pharmacy. Morley is employed with Medicine Bottle Drugs and is practicing pharmacy in Westlock where he makes his home. Anita, the youngest of Rolly and Kitty's five children, was born in Westlock in 1964. She attended Saint Mary Separate School and is attending the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Education. Anita has been very active in Girl Guides and is also a recipient of the highest achievement award, only it was changed from the original Gold Cord to the Canada Cord. Anita is also a recipient of the silver medal award in the sixteenth Canada Wide Science Fair held in Victoria, B.C. in 1977. Anita resides in Westlock with her parents while attending University.

Rolly and Kitty are both active in their community. Rolly has served on the Westlock Town Council for nine years, on Saint Mary Separate School Board for three years and on the Immaculata Hospital Board for many years. He is an active member and a past president with the Royal Canadian Legion. He was on the Boy Scout's Landing Trail District Council and an active father with the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides movement for many years. Kitty is active in the church and Saint Mary's Council of Catholic Women's League. She has served as the treasurer with C.W.L. for four years and has been on many convenerships and committees in the twenty-seven years since the council was first formed. Kitty is also a past member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Cana-



Rolly and Kitty Swaren on their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

dian Legion where she served as a treasurer for two years. Kitty, most of all enjoyed her work with youth and devoted many years of service to Girl Guides and Rangers, as well as the Boy Scout movement in Westlock. She served as a Guider (leader) with Brownies, Girl Guides and Rangers, also as a badge secretary and was on many parent committees. She also worked at and attended many of the Girl Guide Tamarac Area Divisional Camps held at Lake Wakamau (Knights of Columbus Campsite at Clyde). She became known as "Crafty Kitty" to many of the Guiders. This name was due to her craft talents which she applied in instructing the girls at camps. She has also served as a Boy Scouts Counselor (leader) for several years and was on many committees with Boy Scouts. Kitty has been awarded a long service bar and pin for fifteen years of service with the Girl Guides. She has enjoyed her association with Guiding and Scouting in Westlock for 25 years.

Rolly and Kitty enjoy their family and their many friends. They are looking forward to their retiring years in Westlock.

## **The Hiram and Milicent Tally Family submitted by Mrs. Nora Tally**

The Hiram and Milicent Tally family moved to Alberta in 1906 from Lawrence County, Missouri U.S.A. They came to Alberta to file on a homestead. The first place they settled was SW 18, T 58, R26, W 4 later known as Chris Rosendales. All thirteen children were born in the United States.



Tally family. Front row: friend, Mother Tally, Ella, Lula holding Dora. Children: Florence de Alexandra, Jesse de Alexandra, Alberta Irwin, Dan McDonald, Bill McDonald. Standing in front of original house on Elbert's homestead. House taken down in 1967.

The names of the children are:

Charles born	1880-1967
Ella	1884-1967
Calvin	1886-1975
Elbert	1887-1931

Steve	1889-1931
Ivan	1891-1965
Orvel	1895-1975
Edmon	1898-1959
Cleeva	1900-living
George	1903-1979
Lulu	-1942
Ira	Died as an infant.
Johnny	Died at 12 years old.

Shortly after their arrival, Elbert took a homestead on NW18, T58, R26 W4. Eventually the remaining family moved to Elbert's place. All the brothers lived with Elbert while taking their own homesteads, which they eventually moved to upon marriage, except George who took over Elbert's homestead upon Elbert's death. Elbert mostly farmed until his death in October 1931. He was run over by his run away team at threshing time. When first arriving in Canada, Hiram Tally hauled freight out of Edmonton while the boys farmed. Eventually Hiram left the family.

Charlie owned a saw mill, also a steam threshing machine, one of the first in the area, which he did custom work with. He married Jessie Moins in 1932. They had five children, one died as an infant. Charlie died in May of 1967.

Ella Tally married Nick DeAlexandra and moved to Millet, later moving to Pickardville opening a restaurant until it burnt down in 1935. Ella worked around Pickardville for many years where she retired until her death in June 1967.

Steve and brother Calvin worked in Cardiff Coal mine. He was in the army during World War 1 as a telegraph operator. After returning from the war, he came home and married Jessie Moins, who later married Charlie after Steve's death in June 1931. Steve and Jessie had two sons.

Calvin's homestead was just north of Don McMillan. He farmed there for a while then moved to Chicago for a few years, then returned to his farm. He later retired in Vancouver until his death in 1975. He was never married.

Ivan married Kathleen Jordon in July 1924. They homesteaded west of Pickardville. They had four children, one died as an infant. He mainly made his living farming. He moved to Westlock upon retiring until his death in 1965.

Orval left home at the age of fourteen to return to the States, where he joined the army. He retired in Portland Oregon where he died in 1975. He never married.

Edmon married Elsie Johnson in 1924. They had four children. Farming was their main livelihood on a homestead south of Pickardville. He retired to Westlock where he resided until his death in 1959.





Tally Family. L to R: Ella, Charlie, George, Ivan and Edmon.

Cleeva married Annie Dietz. They have five sons. They lived in various places in the district, mainly farming. Cleeva is the only remaining child of Milicent and Hiram Tally. Cleeva now resides at Manola.

George married Nora Cole in December 1931. They have five children. George took over Elbert's homestead after his death. Their mother lived with George Tally's family until her passing in 1943. George farmed for a living. He played fiddle and entertained at many dances and house parties. Georges' wife and son Art still live on this land.

Lula married Billy Irwin and they had one child. After Billy's death in 1913, she married Joe MacDonald; they had four children. Farmed across the road from George's place until retiring to Edmonton until her passing.

Ira and Johnny both deceased before leaving the United States.

When the railroad was being built, the Tally home was a stop over for many railroad employees and passengers. Morinville was the closest town around. And when the crew ran out of supplies they would come to the Tally's house for vegetables, dairy products, eggs, meat and anything else available.

Sometimes they would come and help cook breakfast for the crew at the house.

The main entertainment was dances. The boys all loved to dance and they always looked forward to the July 1st picnic in Pickardville.

## Ivan and Kathleen Tally

Hiram Tally, with horse-drawn wagon, loaded with household effects and some farm items, accompanied by two sons, Steve and Ivan on horseback, followed the wagon trails from Montana to Edmonton in 1905. The trip took about a month. Later, his

wife, Millicent and five younger children, Albert, Lulu, Cleve, George and Edmund came by train in March, 1906. Calvin, Orville and Ella came later.

Ivan was born June 25, 1891 in what was then known as Indian Territory, that later became known as the State of Oklahoma. When the Tally family came to the homestead in the Pickardville area in 1906, there were no schools nearby. Ivan, a young teenager, worked for George McMillan from time to time. He filed on a homestead, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -13-58-27-W4 in 1908. Because he was under legal age his father had to sign on his behalf.



Ivan Tally — horse and buggy, 1924.

Ivan Tally and Kathleen Jordan were married July 11, 1924 in Westlock.

Kathleen was born in Wexford, Ireland on February 19, 1904. Her parents were Mary Eileen and John Jordan. John Jordan, a blacksmith, came to Canada in 1911. He found work at the Cardiff Mines where he was paid a little extra because his work was of superior quality. Kathleen's mother, with the family, came out in 1913. Later, the Jordan family moved onto the homestead in the Fawn Lake area. In 1916, John Jordan joined the 149th Regiment and went overseas. The family had a difficult time to survive these years. Since there were no schools Mrs. Jordan did her best to teach her family.

Ivan and Kathleen lived on the homestead for several years, then sold it and moved to the Arvilla area. After a few years there they moved into Westlock in 1957.

They had a family of two: Milicent, who married Wallace Young. They farmed in the Pickardville area and had a family of five: James and Philip deceased, and Wally, Anne and Susan.

Ivan and Kathleen's son, Elsley George, married Lois Hasack. They live in Morinville and have a family of three: Dwayne, Kathleen and Ivan. Elsley works with the highway maintenance crew.

Ivan died July 29, 1965 and is buried in Busby

cemetery. Kathleen is still living in their little home in Westlock in quite good health. She was a Salvation Army volunteer as long as she was able. She is a member of the Golden Age Club.

## **A tribute to Millicent Tally**

**by Jessie L. Monzo**

I, Jessie L. Monzo, came to Pickardville at the age of seventeen with my parents, Nicholas and Ella DeAlexandra, my sister Florence and my brother Nicholas. We arrived in Pickardville in the fall of 1931, having come from Millet, Alberta. Our years at Millet are recorded in "Tales and Trails of Millet".

We farmed at Millet, but my parents decided to try the restaurant business. They rented the building in Pickardville from Cype Garon. They ran the restaurant for several years from 1931 to when it was destroyed by fire. My parents were divorced shortly after. Mother remained in the area, and my father, after several moves, went to the States, where he still resides. He is 97 years old as of June, 1982.

My mother was the daughter of Milicent Tally. Mother and my brother and sister lived with her for a while until my mother found work. About that time I had come to the States, December, 1937. My sister came the following spring. My brother remained in the area, later marrying Mildred Jackson. Two children were born of this marriage, Murray DeAlexandra and Joyce. My sister and I both married in the States and we each have two daughters.

I would mainly like to pay tribute to my grandmother, Milicent Tally. She was of good hardy pioneer stock. Having married at a very young age, she had thirteen children and raised eleven to adulthood. The Tallys lived in many places in the United States, always moving northwest. They came from Montana into Alberta, where all the boys homesteaded. I do not know the legal descriptions of the homesteads but they were generally south of Pickardville.

Grandma's oldest son, Charlie, had the first steam engine in the area, which was mainly used for threshing. Many oldtimers had pictures of this engine.

My mother, Ella, was the second child. She did not live in the area, but worked in Edmonton before marrying my father. They lived in Vancouver where I was born, also in Calmar, Leduc, and Millet before coming to Pickardville. Grandma's other sons were: Ivan P., Calvin H., Steve, Orvel, Elbert, Edmon, Cleeva and George. There were two daughters, my mother Ella and Lula.

Lula was the wife of Joe MacDonald, also known for his threshing outfit. The Tally family are all deceased except for Cleeva, who is 82 years old and lives at Barrhead.

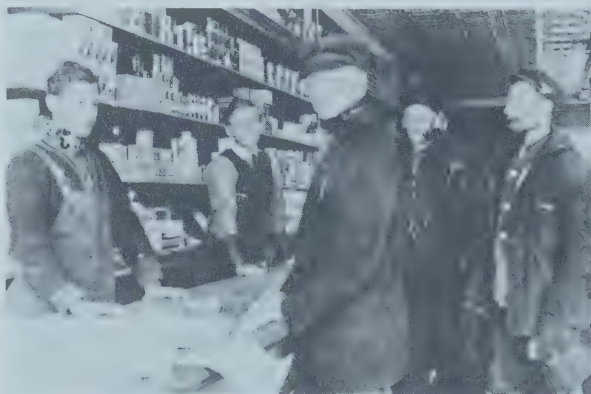
Grandma Tally was a hard working homemaker. She did not go visiting often, but everyone was welcome to come to her home. She loved having company. Many oldtimers remember her houseparties. It wouldn't be long before some of the boys would take down the violin, and probably be accompanied by Cleeva on the mouthorgan. The dancing began! I never saw my grandmother dance but she would sit happily in a corner and enjoy the young folks. Grandma would always welcome "Preacher Kelly" when he made his rounds. Many good old gospel meetings were held in her living room with neighbors attending.

Grandma's body lies at rest in the Busby Cemetery near all the dear ones she loved so much. She raised a family of good, honest, worthwhile people who helped pioneer the area.

## **The Taylor Family**

**by Roy A. Taylor**

The Taylor family came from Huron County, Ontario. They lived at Wingham and Goderich, west of Toronto. Grandma Taylor is buried in the Dunganon Cemetery in Ontario and Grandpa Taylor is buried in the Dungannon Cemetery at Clyde, Alberta.



Roy Taylor in Nickerson's store.

Jack and Bill Taylor settled in Clyde (then Edison) in 1903. Jack's land was the SW¼ 10-60-25-W4 and Bill's was the NW¼ 34-59-25-W4.

Everything was very primitive at that time. Improvement of the homestead was the main objective. Qualities necessary for early pioneering were honesty, integrity, perseverance and commitment. Doors of houses were seldom locked and all people were regarded as friends and neighbours. Extra money was obtained from the sale of fence posts, working in camps, or playing music for dances. Jack and Bill both played the violin and provided the music for the



old-time dances which were held in schools, homes, and later in community halls.

Jack had two children. Greta lived at Clyde until 1940. She then married and moved to Edmonton where she still lives. Roy lived at Clyde until 1942, served in World War II until 1945, attended University of Alberta and then taught school in Edmonton until his retirement in 1980. He lives in Edmonton.

Bill had two children. Violet married and moved to Edmonton where she still resides. Herbert is presently living on Vancouver Island.

Absolom, the father of Jack and Bill, moved to Clyde about the year 1908, with the rest of the family who were daughter Lemma and sons Jim, Austin and Casey. Absolom's land was the NW¼ 17-60-25-W4. He was a neighbour of the Olsen family. In the early days mail was obtained from the Edison Post Office.

Vernon, son of Jim Taylor, is ranching west of Ponoka and a daughter, Pearl, is residing in Los Angeles. Austin and Casey were confirmed bachelors and lived in the Clyde area for the remainder of their lives. Lemma married and lives at Dapp.

The first route from Edmonton was covered by horse along the Athabasca Landing Trail. Later a more direct route from Morinville was established.

The town of Clyde was supposedly named after George Danskin Clyde, a man of Scottish descent. He owned land close to the present townsite of Clyde.

Many good times were enjoyed. People made their own enjoyment by holding picnics, dances and agricultural exhibitions. Fall threshing was always a highlight of the year's activities. It was a gathering of the harvest and also a form of social occasion.

The 1920's were relatively prosperous and the

crops were good. The year 1929 brought the Great Depression, poor crops, dust storms and poor prices. Survivors of this era were oriented and educated for the present recession.

Jack Taylor was among the first, and possibly the first, to own a 1917 Model T Ford car in the Clyde district. We hear of Pay T.V. these days. Well, years ago there was Pay Radio. Jack Taylor purchased a license to operate a radio in 1936. The fee was two dollars.

Roy Taylor had Kathleen Olsen MacLachlan as a teacher in the 1920's and was in the first Grade 12 class to graduate from the Clyde High School in June of 1933. He taught at Bouchard School, near Clyde. The school building was later moved to the site of Edison School, which school had previously burned down.

### **The Peter Taylor Family by Lettie Taylor**

Early in 1929, I came to Pibroch from Saskatchewan to visit my sister, Cora Gibson. One day, in the Pibroch store, I met a handsome stranger whom I was to know as Peter Taylor. Not too many strangers those days. He also enquired who I was. Surely, 'twas "Love at first sight!"

Peter had come to Canada from Scotland after World War I, after serving time in the trenches. There wasn't much future in war-torn Europe. After farming for a few years in southern Alberta, he helped his parents find land at Pibroch.



Jack Taylor's new barn in 1928, one mile west of Clyde. A 1926 Chevrolet car is in the yard.



Peter and Lettie Taylor.

We arranged to be married in the fall. I had been a daughter who stayed home and helped my parents on the farm. Imagine their surprise when they called me home for "Spring Work" and discovered that I had gotten myself engaged while visiting Cora. As much as it is hard to leave one's parents, there is still something which beckons you on into marriage. Early years on the homestead were hard, but wonderful memories remain.

We invested in a Hart-Parr tractor and breaking plow. Peter broke up lots of land for neighbours, from Pibroch to Jarvie. People remarked, "The putt-putt of the Hart-Parr at four a.m. was their morning call." We raised Barred Rock chickens on the farm. Since we trap-nested and kept R.O.P. records, we were able to ship hatching eggs to Edmonton, besides hatching our own chicks in coal-oil heated incubators. Before we had cars, or even horses, how often I walked that five and a half miles to Pibroch for mail, carrying a pail of eggs packed in grain, to trade for groceries. We always had a fine garden and that sure helped out on food costs. Pete was a gardener at heart; he could grow anything!



Mary and Tommy Taylor.

In 1938, we adopted Mary and Tommy. Both are now married and have families. Mary is married to Arne Heidler, and they have one daughter, Eileen, who graduates from high school in 1983. Tommy works in the coal mines at Coleman, in the Crow's Nest Pass area. Tommy's wife is the former Edith Aarneson. Their children are three: — William, 18; Linda, 10; and Karen, 8.

It is interesting to look back and remember the egg customers we had in Westlock and Pibroch (not too many left now): — George Dunlop, Dr. Kickham, Mrs. Sutherland, Charlie Roulston, Harry Peters, Jimmy Hunter, Dick Ponting (his wife, Epie, still remembers me coming with the eggs on Saturday night — usually bath night), Dr. Sands and last but not least, Clarke's Cafe. They used up to thirty dozen eggs a week, besides buying our chickens, vegetables, even rhubarb . . . then a long trip home at night behind the horses!

Among my memories are those of the settlers from the dried-out south calling in to rest their horses. We would persuade them to bring in their blankets and make beds on the floor (otherwise they might have slept beneath their wagons on the ground). Years later, we met people who would recognize us and call us "you good people."

In 1945 we sold the homestead and Soldiers' Settlement Grant on account of poor health, and moved to an acreage. Our's was the first mail box west of Edmonton on the north side of the Jasper Highway (now Highway 16). Radio station CFRN was our neighbour. There we had purebred registered Yorkshire hogs, bees and a garden.

In 1949, Pete went to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto in charge of the Alberta Exhibit, along with Norman Shopland from Rochester. We sent one gilt which placed 11th in a class of 38. From then on we raised and showed pigs at the Edmonton shows and earned many ribbons and championships.

The hardest part of life has been losing Peter with heart trouble, (thrombosis) in 1958. After I had worked in Edmonton for twenty years, old friends persuaded me to return to Westlock in 1978, to spend my last years in the area where Peter and I had spent the happiest years of our lives. I now reside in Parkview Place in Westlock.

### **The Tennant and Ashby Story**

The Tennants emigrated from Carlow, Ireland and landed in Quebec on June 26, 1820. Settled on Lot No. 8, SW½ 10-Concession, Lanark County, Ontario. Descendant — Willard Tennant (grandson) born in Lanark, married Charlotte Clarke, born in Almont, Ontario. They were married in Drummond





A. Ashby milk wagon 1935. Horses Babe and Kit.

Centre, Ontario in 1894. They came west in 1907 with their daughter, Thelma, age 11 and their son, Ellison, age 4.

They settled for a while in Edmonton and later moved to Rossington to his homestead where he farmed on NE $\frac{1}{4}$ -10-60-1-W5th.

There were many hardships in those days. One of the things were the roads in the area, they were very muddy, and at that time they had corduroy roads. These were roads through a swamp. They were made by putting small poles or trees crossways on the road so that vehicles would not sink down in the swamp area. As you can imagine, it was very rough.

At that time also, they would have to go on these roads to Edmonton for a supply of groceries. It would be a four-day trip with a team of horses and a wagon. They would stop at Morinville at a place called a halfway house. They would sleep there for the night and feed their horses, then on to Edmonton the next day to load up their wagon with flour and just the necessities for themselves and their neighbors. They would take turns in making these trips and much good will was shown to all.

To add a touch of humour to one of the trips, Willard took his son, Ellison, with him. They again stopped at the halfway house to stay the night and feed their horses. Ellison had heard his dad and others speak of all the bedbugs in the house. After they had gone to bed, Ellison called his dad and said "I think I've got one" and handed it to his dad. It turned out to be a piece of straw. Willard said, "Thank goodness they are not that big!"

Willard Tennant lived on his homestead at Rossington with his wife, Charlotte, until his death in 1934. After his death, his wife moved in with her daughter, Thelma, and family, where she lived until her death in 1959.

Her daughter, Thelma, married Archie Ashby in 1920. Archie was born in Balderson, Ontario, and came west to Edmonton in 1918. He attended Kings-

ton Dairy School in Kingston, Ontario before coming west. When he came to Edmonton he worked in Woodland Dairy and Edmonton City Dairy before moving out to Rossington where he opened a cheese factory across from the Rossington Store. He worked at that for a number of years. While working there he lived on the Brownlie place on the banks of the Pembina River on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ -14-60-1-W5th.

Archie and Thelma lived in a log house there. Many an anxious moment was had by Thelma because Archie drew water from the river by walking out on a plank stuck in the river bank. At that time there was not a well dug. More anxious moments were also had by Thelma trying to watch two small children, Eileen and Lonetta, because there was a lake on one side of the house and the Pembina River on the other side. They had a dog and it would dig a hole under the fence and crawl out — and, of course, Eileen and Lonetta would crawl under also and follow the dog. Needless to say, Thelma was glad when they moved off the Brownlie place.

In the older days, for entertainment, there were many dances and box socials held. Thelma Ashby played the piano at these get-togethers, accompanied by Wes Clarke on the violin.

Times were hard at that time and Thelma said she needed a dress for Eileen when she was a baby, so she made her one out of one of Archie's silk scarves. It did not take much material to make a baby's dress. Many things were made do in those days.

After leaving the Brownlie place, Archie and family moved to Westlock, where Archie worked in the Westlock Creamery as a cream tester for a while. After leaving the creamery, Archie and his family moved two miles east of Westlock to the Edison district. He farmed there and started a dairy business and delivered milk to the town of Westlock. Later, he moved two and a half miles west of Westlock, where he farmed and still carried on his dairy business and continued to deliver milk to town. He called his business "Rich Valley Dairy."

Archie retired from the dairy business and delivering milk in 1959 after thirty five years of continuous service to the town and district, selling to Northern Alberta Dairy Pool.

Archie and his family lived on the banks of the Wabash until his death in 1964. His wife, Thelma, continued to live there on the home place with her family until her death in 1974. Her two daughters, Eileen and Lonetta, still live there with their husbands. Eileen married Ross McFarlane on June 23, 1951 and Lonetta married George Bruder on June 2, 1952. Their husbands are in partnership in Westlock in insurance and public accounting.

Ellison Tennant married Mary Watt in 1923. They



Ross and Eileen McFarlane, 1981.



George and Loretta Bruder, 1981.

lived in Rossington and farmed for a while. Ellison drove a truck. Then he opened a store in Rossington around 1932. He and his wife ran the store for many years. During their time of business, the Pembina River flooded in 1944 and completely flooded the store with a foot of water on the floors of the store and also the living quarters at the back of the store, where they lived. Ellison also worked in Dawson Creek for a couple of years, around 1945 and 1946.

Later, he and his wife and their daughter, Darlene, moved to Edmonton, where Ellison worked for a short time with Investors Syndicate, before moving to Canmore, Alberta. There he again worked in trucking and gravel hauling. He lived in Canmore

until his death in 1965. His wife lived in Canmore for a while, then moved to Vancouver, B.C., then Penticton, B.C. and is now living in Osoyoos, B.C., where her daughter, Darlene, and her husband, Clarence Schulte and family live.

While Ellison had the store, much fun was had. Ellison was great for pulling tricks on people. One of these was when Herb Cross was shopping in the store. Ellison got Nelson Clark to keep Herb talking in the store, while he went out and tied Herb's Model T Ford to a tree. At that time, cars had to be cranked to get them running and when Herb came out to start his car, while Ellison and Nelson watched from the store window, each time he would crank the car and let out the clutch, the car would stall. Needless to say, Herb thought there was something wrong with his car. Not too happy!

Another time, when Elmer Watt lived on the Tom Clark place where Bob Guest's house now is, he had to carry water from the river in pails. He stopped at the store on the way back to his place and just set the pails down at the back of the house. While he was in the store, Ellison got Mary to keep Elmer in the store — and he emptied the two pails of water which Elmer had brought up from the river into his reservoir in the stove. When Elmer went out for the water, what a surprise he got. And a good laugh for Ellison. These were the good old days when everybody had a lot of fun and good times.

To get back to the Ashby part of the story. While Archie Ashby delivered milk in Westlock, he made lots of friends with the children. They loved to go for a ride on the milk wagon. This he allowed them to do, provided they didn't touch the lines to make the horses go. They knew that if they did this they would not be able to go for a ride again. The children were very good at obeying, because they wanted the ride.

Archie's job was a seven-days-a-week one, from morning until night. He appreciated all his milk customers and gave them good service. If at times he would be short of milk during the day, after milking at night he would come back into town with the car and bring them the extra milk they wanted. When he told his customers he had sold out to the N.A.D.P., and would no longer be delivering milk, they all felt very sorry. But thirty five years is a long time to be delivering milk. Mrs. Leo Kunelius said that was the meanest thing he ever did, to quit delivering milk to them.

The milk wagon was used for other purposes too. George Selfridge made arrangements with Archie for the use of the wagon to take a wedding party for a ride. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Schmode, on their wedding day, November 5, 1937, didn't know about this and when they came out of the Manse, the milk wagon





Loretta, Archie and Thelma Ashby.

was backed up to the door to take them for their ride. They went down all the streets and then the back alleys before finishing their ride. Needless to say, the milk was delivered an hour late that day.

Archie had good herds of Jersey cows, which gave good rich milk. People used to whip the cream off the top of the bottle. Later, he went into raising Holstein cattle, which were also good producers.

While he delivered milk he collected about 350 bottles from different towns in the United States and Canada. When he finished the dairy business he gave the bottles to Dick Adkins, and these can be viewed at Dick's "Mini Museum" on Highway 18, west of Westlock.

In times of depression, many times Archie would just give milk to the needy families on his route, if they did not have the money to pay for it.

In those years the highway was narrow, and many times he would make the first trail through the snow, and then the cars could follow after the horses made the trail.

Even through all these times, there were many good things to remember.

### The Terhorsts

Mr. and Mrs. John Terhorst came from Holland with their 4 sons and 1 daughter and settled in the Eastburg district on N.E. of 17 59-R1 W5 in 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Terhorst and 3 sons moved to the U.S. in the 1920's. Their daughter Hendrika married Bob Weir and lived in the Rossington area until the 1930's when they moved to Edmonton.

Henry Terhorst bought N.W. of 19 59-R1 W5 in Springwell, the Nyland homestead, in 1925.

He married Gertie Skaalen, an Eastburg girl, and they settled on their farm in 1926. Their two children, a son Hardy, and a daughter Winnie were both born in Westlock. Hardy was the second baby born in the then new Immaculata Hospital.



Terhorst family. Henry, Gertie, Winnie and Hardy.

Henry was councillor for many years and also Secretary-Treasurer of the School Board. The Springwell School was built on property acquired from Henry on N.W. of 19-59 R1 W5.

In 1944 the Terhorsts sold their property to Cecil James and moved to Jarvie where they purchased the farm of Gordon Pierce. While in Jarvie Henry was instrumental in forming the Rural Electrification Association. Hardy married the youngest daughter of Gil and May Adkins of Westlock in 1948 and he and Lois still reside in the Jarvie district. Winnie finished her high school in Westlock and was carnival queen as the Student's Union representative in 1948. She then moved to Edmonton where she still resides. In 1958 she married Dr. P. D. MacRae.

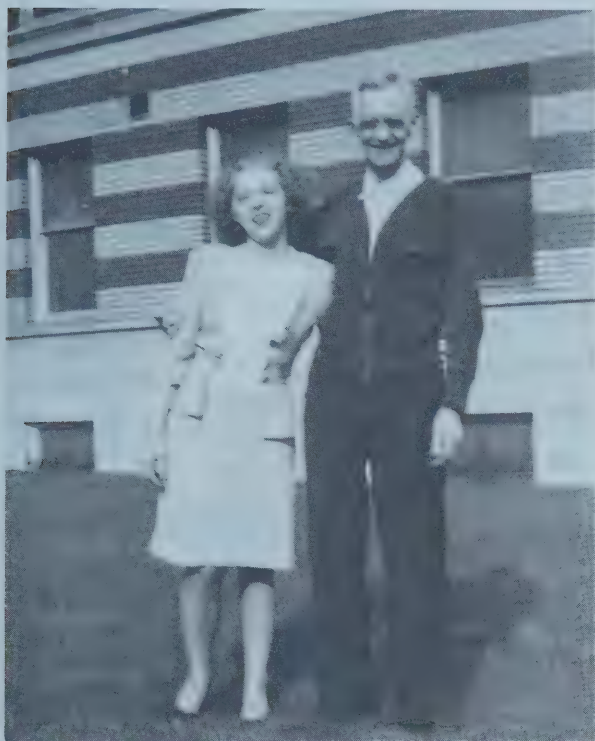
In 1974 Henry and Gertie retired to Westlock where Henry was active in the Golden Age Club and served as Treasurer for the United Church. Henry passed away in 1981.

### The Thompson Brothers, James, John and David

written by Lizzie (Gillies) Gamble

The Thompson brothers, James (Jim), John (Jack) and David (Dave) were born in Perthshire, Scotland, three of thirteen children — twelve boys and one girl. Jim and Jack were twins. After learning their trades, Jim as a blacksmith, Jack as a carpenter and Dave as a tailor, they emigrated to Canada around 1908. They worked in Winnipeg, Manitoba for the Canadian Pacific Railway for awhile, then proceeded west to Alberta. They decided to try their hand at homesteading.

In 1909 Jim filed on the N.W. 30-60-26 W4th Meridian, Jack filed on the S.W. 32-60-26 W4th Meridian and Dave filed on the S.E. 32-60-26 W4th Meridian in 1910



Dave Thomson and friend.

They proved up their homesteads by taking turns going out to work to make some money, while one stayed on the homestead.

Later Jim and Jack purchased the North half of Section 20-60-26-W4th Meridian, and leased the West half of Section 29-60-26-W4th Meridian, which was part of a School Section. They used this land for pasture for their good herd of hereford cattle and clydesdale horses, which they had acquired. They also kept a large amount of hogs.

Dave later purchased the S.W. 33-60-26 W4th Meridian, which was formerly C.P.R. land.

They were very hard working men and were good friends and neighbors. They were always ready and willing to help anyone at any time, when the occasion arose.

They were very community minded and in the winter of 1914-15 they helped to build the little log Community Hall in Pibroch, which was named "The Pibroch Farmers Hall". This hall was the first school and Presbyterian Church, which later became the United Church of Canada. They were very active in the church.



Dave Thomson breaking with oxen, 1910, on the SE 36-60-26-W4.



The first acre on the Jim Thomson homestead, N. E. 30-60-26-W4th, 1910. Jack Thomson on disc with his two oxen and horse.

Jim and Jack very seldom missed a Saturday night coming to the Matthew Gillies home to visit and get their Scotch scones and pies, which my mother baked for them. They would provide the flour for the baking. When they were ill or had an accident, they would always come for my mother.

During their early homesteading days, they planted two spruce trees by the gate leading into the farm. One grew taller than the other and like the twins, Jim was taller than Jack.

Jim and Jack never married.

Jim and Jack sold their land in 1945 and retired to Royston, British Columbia, where they both passed away.

Dave was a mixed farmer. He had a team of buckskin horses and they would run away at the least scare. I remember one time while he was fencing, he was stringing out the wire from his wagon when the horses became frightened and ran away. Dave got caught in the wire and sustained very serious cuts. It was really a miracle how he was able to get to Jim and Jack's home, which was over a mile away. Jim





Jim and Jack Thomson.

phoned my mother and she went up the half mile to their home and got Dave cleaned up and bandaged his wounds. She did this twice a day for several days, until he could be moved to our home. She looked after him until he was able to return to his own home. He had many accidents with this team of horses, but he would never part with them while he was farming.

Dave sold his farm and retired to Vancouver, British Columbia. He worked in a hospital in Vancouver, as a janitor and there met a fine lady whom he married.

### **Ervin and Elsie Tober and Family by Elsie Tober**

Ervin came to the Pickardville area from Leduc with his family in 1929 as a young lad of six years. He attended Elk Park School and can relate endless tales of pranks which he and his buddies, Warren Wilson and Albert LaBelle, indulged in. He spent his teenage years helping on the farm and working at various jobs in the area until World War II broke out, and he joined the armed forces. He spent some time in the Mediterranean Campaign, and was wounded at Ortona, in Italy. After a recovery period in England, he rejoined his comrades in Belgium and Holland, and again received serious wounds. It was while he was convalescing in England that V.E. Day was declared and he returned home to Pickardville.

Ervin obtained employment in Edmonton, and it was at this time, while he was a chauffeur at the U.S. Air Base, and I was enrolled at Concordia College, that we met. In April of 1947 Ervin purchased a quarter section from John Kramps, in the Clover Valley district, and this marked the beginning of a life devoted to farming. We were married on July 1, 1947 at Peace Lutheran Church at Fort St. John, B.C. On



Ervin and Elsie Tober and children Lary and Linda.

arrival at the Pickardville station a week later, via N.A.R., we learned to our dismay that hail had swept the area the previous night; the evidence was very apparent as the hail was still lying in the ditches on the roadside. Thus we began our life together.

I came to this area as a young and lonely bride, but the warmth which was extended to me by my first visitors, namely; Irene and Lea Kramps, Irene Schmode, Ruth Marshall and Mary Gregorwich, developed into an everlasting friendship. Even though over the years, many dear friends have come and gone, the gratitude I feel toward these first friendly faces and helping hands is unforgettable. And of course, the "Chivaree" which the entire community sprang on us certainly did away with the misgivings we may have had about belonging to the community.

We farmed in much the same way as everyone else, milking cows for our weekly "grocery money", as well as having a few chickens and hogs. For our first two years, our only mechanized vehicle was a 2-plow Case tractor, so we certainly never turned down a friendly "lift" from a neighbour for a shopping trip into Westlock. Although we both grew up on farms, we soon discovered that we didn't quite

know everything there was to know about farming, but with a lot of sweat and tears, trials and errors, plus a little help from our friends, we progressed slowly, and after a few years we purchased another quarter section, this one from Joe Beauchamp.

George and Tinnie Seniuk lived a half mile north of us, and Ervin and George pooled their resources and know-how on various projects. We both raised Hereford cattle and the men made several trips to Olds, to Wilf Edgars Bull Sale, where they jointly purchased a pure-bred bull. This in itself was quite an undertaking. If Mr. Bull was at Seniuk's when he was needed at Tober's, George would open the gate and send him on his way. Reluctantly, and complaining, he would come trudging down the road and into our driveway, and just as reluctantly, would again return to the Seniuk's! Ervin and George still chuckle over an episode in the early fifties when we both shipped eggs to Edmonton via N.A.R. Every week or so the men would load the eggs on to a sleigh with horses, and take them to the station in Westlock. However, one spring, after a winter of extremely heavy snowfall, and of course, no snow plow, and with the roads getting quite muddy, they decided to use the wagon. Everything went fine until they came near Wallace Mercier's. Then in order to avoid the soft road, they decided to cross the field, but in doing so, both horses and wagon became stuck crossing the ditch. So what to do! They unhitched the horses, got them across, then carried the crates of eggs, (one at a time), then the wagon, piece by piece. On the other side, the wagon was re-assembled, the crates re-loaded and they proceeded on their way. Needless to say, supper and chores were late that night.

We have been blessed with two children, both of whom graduated from Westlock High School. Linda is married to Terry Dingwall and they live on an acreage east of Sherwood Park. Terry is employed with Edmonton City Telephones, and Linda has worked as a Registered Nurse at the W. W. Cross Cancer Institute since she graduated from the Royal Alex School of Nursing in 1973. They have two children, Correne and Travis. Larry recently married Ida Stanley, who is the Public Relations Officer at the Olds Agricultural College. They make their home in Olds. At the present time, Larry is President and Operations Manager of Flowtest Oilfield Production Services, based in Calgary. As Larry has chronic asthma, a father-son farming operation was never possible, thus we have never increased our land holdings, although we have increased our farming operations by renting several quarters in the area. Having given up livestock has allowed Ervin to indulge in his favourite sport a bit more often — fishing. He also spends a good many of his week-ends playing his

guitar in a local dance band. As well, we have both been actively involved with the Lutheran Church, with Ervin serving several years on the Church Council, me teaching Sunday School and Linda occasionally playing the organ. Ervin is also a member of the Westlock Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

## The Townsend Story 1982

as told by Thomas

Parents — Claude Baron Townsend; Emma Jane Townsend nee Holley

Children — Thomas, Adele, May and Andrew.

It has been forty seven years since I left the old quarter section. My Dad homesteaded it sometime before World War I and I recall the area designation on the land title read; South east Quarter of section 35, Township No. 58, West of the fourth meridian. Anyhow it was half a mile west of Pickardville on the North side of the road.

Claude Townsend had come to Canada from Chatham, County Kent, England soon after his 20th birthday in 1906. He had served his apprenticeship as a bricklayer and on hearing of the building boom in Western Canada, Edmonton became his destination.

One of the jobs he tackled after arriving in the west included hauling groceries to Pickards General Store some fifty odd miles northwest of Edmonton. Pickard's store was situated on the north boundry of the quarter directly north of the quarter which Dad finally homesteaded. The roads he hauled over were merely trails through the bush. Some of the names still come to mind; The Riviere Que Barre Road and the St. Albert Trail. He used to tell of having to pull his rig into the wide section of a creek to await the passing of a grass and bush fire. William (Bill) Pick-



Charlie Watson's threshing crew about 1931. L to R: Charlie Watson, Pete Frigon, unknown, Syd Weaver, Tom Townsend, unknown, Mr. Slettedahl, Claude Townsend, Albert Revite, Johnnie Frigon.



ard and his wife had operated the store and post office for many years and were known for miles around so it seemed only fitting that the district was named Pickardville in his honour.

Emma Jane Holley arrived in Canada in 1909. She came from Huddersfield, County York, England and came to Edmonton to join her brother, Tom Holley, who had homesteaded a few miles east of Eastburg.

Eventually, Claude Townsend and Emma Jane Holley, both from far-away England, met in the Pickardville area of Northern Alberta. They were married in Edmonton in 1913 where they lived 'til 1916. Then they moved out to the homestead at Pickardville with young Tom. Between 1916 and 1923 Adele, May and Andrew were to arrive.

I was told that during those first few years we had oxen but being very young I don't remember. However I do recall the old harness and wooden neck yoke that hung in the barn for many years. I also recall an old farmer named Jimmy Clark from out Eastburg way who drove a team of oxen on his occasional trip into Pickardville. When he passed our way it always meant a mad race down to the roadway for Adele and I to see him and his oxen. Mr. Clark smoked a short stemmed clay pipe and it always hung from his mouth upside down. I wanted to know how he held the tobacco in the bowl that way, and Adele sagely explained that he held it that way to keep from setting his handle-bar mustache on fire.

At the age of six I started school which meant a 2½ mile walk to the old tin clad building on the other Townsend's (no relation) quarter. The land later was sold to Albert Smith. Mr. and Mrs. Townsend lived in a log house that stood a quarter mile back from the North/South road. They had three grown children — Bernie, Charlie, and Joy. (Grown — means much older than I).

My first teacher was a Mr. Rutherford. He was hurt in a tractor accident and left the area shortly after. Then there was Mrs. Slater who taught for several years until the school closed down in 1926.



Stacking sheaves, 1919.

There are some who might remember Mrs. Slater for the great concerts she put on every Christmas. She put a little bit of an entertainer into all of us. I remember her best for her "wrath" and I hasten to add — I felt it a number of times!

When the old school closed there was a re-arrangement of the school district borders. For a short time there was a little confusion. It meant that a few families had to travel a considerable distance to school until everything was sorted out. The United Church in Pickardville was opened as a school room with Mrs. Anne Forsyth as our teacher, the year 1926/7. A year later the new one-roomed school opened. It was situated north-east of the Pickardville Railway station and Mr. A. V. Bourcier became our teacher.

In those early days my mother and father were usually busy with some social effort. Dad was Sec.-Treas. for the original Pickardville school district. (You know I met the district school inspector before I started going to school, his name of course, J. J. Le Blanc.

The U.F.A. political party came into power and their July 1st picnic was once held in a clearing on the south edge of our quarter. (One of the ice cream mixers together with a scoop was stored in one of our sheds and we thought it great to borrow them at Christmas and sometimes on birthdays.

After the United church was built mother was Sunday School teacher for years together with Mr. Fred Dickinson, who lived west and north of the Racine school, and also Mr. John Stone who lived on the quarter north of Louis Breault.

One change that was made at our place after we started attending the new school east of town was the start of our milk business. By this time there were four of us at school, and as we had to walk through town, why not our parents reasoned, deliver milk on our way there and pick up the bottles on our way home. So that's what we did. The lowest price as I recall was 12 Quarts for a \$1.00, but even so it meant \$1.50 to \$2.00 each and every day of the year and that was really something in those days.

In 1935 Tom left for the west coast and settled at Youbou on Vancouver Island. In 1941 he married Doris Nelson of Frontier, Sask. They had a girl and then a boy. Tom became a lumber inspector. In 1961 they were transferred to Vancouver where they retired in 1980.

Adele married Sid Jackson of Benson, Sask. Sid was a station agent and moved around in Saskatchewan and Alberta while raising two boys and two girls. In the early 1970's they moved from Edson, Alberta to Sidney on Vancouver Island where Adele now resides. Sid passed away in early 1982.

May married Charlie Thompson whose mother and father ran the Pickardville Hotel in the late 1930's. They too moved to Youbou where they raised three girls and a boy. Charlie became a mill foreman but passed away in the early 1960's. May now resides at Sidney B.C.

Andrew travelled to the coast to work for awhile and then joined the army. At wars end he returned to Westlock Alberta where he married Yvonne Gower, daughter of Ted and Mildred Gower. Soon after their marriage they moved to Trail B.C. where Andy bought a farm near Fruitvale, and became a smelterman at Cominco's big Smelter. Andy now resides in Castlegar B.C.

Names of a few of the kids who attended the old school on the Townsend Land, later Albert Smith's. Fradette, Albert, Alma, Alphonsine, John, Frank, Ernest.

Lambert, Maurice, Armand, Simonne, Lillian.

Lansing, Peter, Albert

Nadeau, Gedeon (Jed) Alice, Rose, Joe, Florence

O'Brian, James and his red headed sister

Price, Willie, Mildred

Robinson, Walter, Molly, Hubert

St. Louis, Amos, Omar, Ernie and a sister

Sutherland, Clarence

Townsend, Thomas, Adele, May

Wiley, Rex, Alice, Ben, Irene, Lloyd, Helen

Measures, Sylvia, Harry, Mary

Casherbak, 2 girls and a boy

Bomberger, Otto, Edna, Freddy

Ellstock, Roy

Chong, Ma Chong (His guardian ran the restaurant)

Barrett, Pat

Adams, Reggie, Eva, Sadie

Marler, Karl, Stella (twins)

Kuntz, Gerald and his sister

Goupie, Lena

## William Gilmore Tracy Family

by Winona Berry

Mr. Tracy, born April 6, 1856 and died Aug. 6th, 1940. Mr. Tracy came to Edmonton in 1902 with his wife Mary Ann and four daughters, Elizabeth, Ethel, Mabel and Clara, leaving their home on Manitoulin Island.

In Edmonton they had a boarding house on about 102nd Ave and 100A St. Mr. Tracy was a carpenter by trade. This entire family is now deceased but I would like to give a little more history of my grandfather as I can remember and of what I have been told.

Grandpa Tracy, his wife and girls left Edmonton early in 1904 and filed on a homestead in the Little Grand Prairie District, fifty miles north-east of Edmonton.



Clara and Floyd Baldwin's wedding day, with everyone in the community present.



At first they lived in a little log house, adding a frame structure later. On about 1909, Grandpa built a large white house further south on the same quarter.

After Floyd and Clara were married they moved into the first little log house, there Willmet and I were born.

Many were the happy jaunts down the road to Grandpa and Grandma. I remember one time while visiting down there, of spilling a pail of Rogers' Syrup down the front of my dress. Grandma being upset at losing all that syrup told Willmet to take me home and tell my mother to keep me there (which of course she did not mean). After not being down there for quite awhile, Grandma asked Mom why we kiddies had not been down. After Mom's explanation, Grandma said "You know I didn't mean that"!

Another time, Dad had been mending a chair and put the extra tacks on my high chair, I did not appreciate this and promptly laid them on the rocking chair with some of the points facing upwards. No one noticed the transfer until Grandpa came up and sat in the rocking chair, getting up immediately and saying "Gee Whiskers" and without another word went home. I guess later I explained the transfer of the tacks. Many more are the happy memories.

Some time later Grandpa and Grandma went back for a visit to the Manitoulin Island. Their two elder daughters were married and Mable took a four month degree in teaching at the Regina Normal School. After Alex MacGregor taught at Clover Valley for a short term in late 1905, Aunt Mabel taught the first six months in 1906. She received fifty dollars a month. There were about 18 pupils at that time. Aunt Mabel rode horseback or drove to school about four and a half miles, nor did she miss any days on account of the weather.

Grandpa and Grandma moved into Westlock in 1918 or thereabouts. Grandpa continued in carpentry for quite a few years. He always bought logs, then sawed and chopped them for their fire wood. Grandma Tracy passed away in 1920. Later Grandpa married Susan Williams. She passed away in 1931. Grandpa continued to live by himself until his death in August 1940.

## The Clarence Truckey Family by Doris Truckey

Clarence Albert Truckey was born in Edmonton on January 24, 1930. He lived in Onoway and took all his schooling there prior to entering the Faculty of Education in 1949.

Doris Mary Rose (Kuntz) Truckey was born at Heisler on February 11, 1928. She, along with her family moved to Daysland in 1936, where she at-



The Truckey family, 1968. Ted, Don, Clarence, Doris and David.

tended school prior to entering the Faculty of Education in 1947.

It was in Onoway that these young aspiring teachers met, Doris having come there to teach grades one and two. After a courtship of nearly three years they were married in Edmonton on August 20, 1951.

Clarence took his bride in his "29" Chev with \$52.00 between them, to a small country area called Stanger. There they made many friends, and as the school was the centre of most activities they were quite involved with anything and everything.

However, a slightly larger school and the fact that the teacherage had electricity took them to Greencourt one year later. By doing the janitorial duties at the school a few dollars were added to the somewhat meager salary. But they were young then and were highly optimistic about the future.

It was during their sojourn at Greencourt that their two older boys were born. Ted in June of 1953 and Don in June of 1955, just in time for the new "Mom" to do Dad's report cards and year-end register forms. The other ladies in the ward did knitting while Doris added columns of figures, as everything had to balance.

The four years in Greencourt went by quickly. These were happy years, despite the lack of many of the amenities of life. While Clarence looked after the school, Doris looked after the home. It was an endless task — keeping the fires going, washing diapers by hand, forever drying clothes by the stove etc, etc. There was also a bit of substitute teaching thrown in.

In 1956 after deciding it was time to move on and after exploring several possibilities, the Truckeys decided to come to Westlock. A new gym, the first in the division, was being built and a full time Physical Education teacher was needed. Clarence was offered the job, not that he had much experience in that area,

but he had been an excellent baseball player and was willing to learn, which he did by attending every course and clinic he could. At the official opening of the gym Doris clearly remembers hearing one person remark that he had not come for the ceremonies, but to see just what the School division was spending \$80,000.00 for! That lovely new gym is now referred to as 'the old gym,' but for those of us who used it in "the old days" it holds some very fond memories.

Clarence spent over 20 years in the field of Physical Education, during which time he finished off his Bachelor of Education Degree in 1960 and a masters degree in 1975. These two degrees were earned by attending summer school for many years in Edmonton and Eugene, Oregon.

Coaching was the name of the game and Clarence coached, at one time, almost every sport connected with the school. He coached an excellent football team in the late 1950's and early 60's. They finally had to fold because of lack of competition. Many of the teams went to the provincial finals. Clarence and Doris clearly remember taking bus loads of students to Stettler for track and field competition at the Provincial level, where two students broke records.

Clarence was one of the founding members of the North Central High School Athletic Association and was president of the Alberta Schools Athletic Association for two years. He also served five years as Chairman of the Physical Education Curriculum Committee for the Department of Education. In 1975 he received an Honor Award from the Edmonton branch of C.A.H.P.E.R. The High School year book was dedicated to him in 1966.



Club 200 Christmas dance, Dec. 1963. Doris Truckey, Santa Claus (Hazel Barr), and Lil Kumish.

In the community he is a member of the United Church, taught Sunday School, was an Elder and was on the Board of Stewards. Clarence was on the first executive that started the Tawatinaw Centennial Ski Project, is a member of the Lions Club and served as president of this organization for one term. He was on the recreational board for four years.

Doris, in her turn, has also been quite active, albeit in the shadow of her husband. She remembers the many bus trips when Clarence drove and she went along as the teacher chaperone (there were no bus drivers unions then), the many times she took injured football players to the doctor or made hot chocolate for the team as well as the weekly washing of the uniforms. One lady wondered where she got all the red sweaters. Also the times they entertained the visiting Edmonton Eskimos after an exhibition basketball game, the Christmas and Year-end Physical Education "get togethers" that were held at the Truckey residence. She also got to attend many banquets and other functions associated with the various offices Clarence held. She attended, with Clarence the 25th reunion of the Alberta Schools Athletic Association presidents in Red Deer in April 1980, which seemed to mark the end of his major involvement in physical education.

Doris loved hockey — even played some as a high school student and so when Ted and Don were old enough to play hockey she became involved with the local hockey organization and did everything from coaching and keeping time to looking after statistics for the Pembina Valley Hockey League.

Church work was also a part of Doris' life. She taught Sunday School for many years, belonged to the United Church Women for some time and is presently on the Christian Education Committee in the capacity of Treasurer, a position she has held for almost ten years.

Doris was also on the first executive of the Club 200, a dance group formed by a number of interested people. This was in the late 1950's, when the members took time to organize each dance, decorate the hall as beautifully as they could and attended each dance with a spirit of camaraderie. Unfortunately, this club folded in the late 1970's as a result of disinterest, high costs and the fact that many cabarets were on the go by then.

Substitute teaching is still a part of her life, as it has been for the last 27 years. Doris says she will retire from this when her husband retires.

Ted, the firstborn, is perhaps best known in the Westlock area for his hockey playing ability. He played most of his minor hockey in Westlock under some very capable coaches. He also played Junior "B" hockey in Barrhead, Senior hockey in Westlock



and junior hockey with the University of Alberta Junior Bears. Baseball, basketball, volleyball and more recently tennis have been Ted's favorite sports.

Ted received all his public schooling in Westlock, graduating in 1971. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology in 1974 and a Bachelor of Education Degree in 1976, and is presently teaching English in the High School at Strathmore.

Ted married the former Donna Dancy of Star City, Saskatchewan in Calgary, in July of 1979. They delighted the whole family when they presented them with a beautiful baby girl, Janine Michelle on October 29, 1982. Donna teaches in Airdrie, where she and Ted now reside.

While Ted was known for his athletic abilities, Don is best remembered in these parts for his academic achievements although he also played hockey, baseball etc. His dad, in reminiscing often chuckles over the fact that whenever he sent Don out onto the basketball court, he could hear the opposing coach groan and mutter, "Oh no, not that Sherman Tank again." Don was used to heavy contact in hockey and played basketball the same way! Don did a lot of extra-curricular work in the school, his main interests being "Projects Canada West," a Social Studies curriculum project, and the yearbook. He was best all-around male student in Grades 11 and 12, and received the R. F. Staples Matriculation Award in grade twelve for the highest average.

Don worked for a year before entering the University of Alberta, where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English "With Distinction". He was very involved with the student newspaper "The Gateway," and this whetted his appetite for journalism. Don has been working for the Calgary Herald for almost five years and is presently doing political reporting. He also does some freelance work, his latest being for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

David, the youngest, surprised his parents with his arrival in February 1966. David did not pursue hockey or baseball as his brothers did. His parents were older and did not wish to spend all their time at the arena or the ball park, so David went into individual sports, his favorite being down-hill skiing. He worked as a member of the Canadian Ski Patrol last year, a job he thoroughly enjoyed. His dad is presently teaching him the game of tennis.

David likes and gets along with people, and so enjoys his part-time job at Lindahl's Supermarket, where he seems to know almost everyone in the country. He is an excellent cook and very handy around the house. His middle-aged parents enjoy having him around, as he keeps them "up" on things and is a source of enjoyment to all. He is presently in

Grade twelve and hopes to work a year before deciding on a career.

In 1974 the Truckeys decided to take a foster child into their home, as a playmate for David. Gary Monias came to live with them in August of that year. They had him with them for six years, but finally decided, after much consideration that he would be better off on a farm. Gary is presently living on a farm in the Stanger area, and likes it very much. He has had a chance to "tinker" with machinery and says he would like to be a mechanic. With proper guidance and hard work he should achieve his goal.

The Truckeys still reside in Westlock and as yet have made no plans to move elsewhere. Clarence can retire from teaching in a couple of years and they will then decide what they want to do and if they should make a move.

## **The Trudel Family** **by Clara Brown**

Francis Xavier Trudel filed on the SW ¼-6-58-25-W4 in 1901. He was a widower, and came with his family of three sons, Arthur, Joseph and William, and three daughters, Donalda (Mrs. Graff), Mary and Josephine. The youngest daughter married E. Boyce who worked for Mrs. Bacon, Sr. The three sons filed on adjacent land. Their home was built on Joe's quarter.

By 1915 they were considered quite prosperous farmers and had acquired the SW ¼-14-58-26-W4. The farmstead was well built. They had cattle, horses, pigs and sheep. They purchased one of the first tractors in the district also the first Model "T" Ford car by the 20's.

In the fall of 1923 they were threshing wheat at Dan Hamel's. Willy was hauling to the elevator at Legal. He was using a four-horse team on a grain tank. Something on the road caused his team to shy and Willy was thrown from the load and killed. Earlier that year, they had wakened to discover the barn on fire; it burned to the ground.

Mr. Trudel, Sr., and Joseph held an auction sale. Not long after Mr. Trudel passed away, Joseph moved to his father's house in Legal. He married Mary Couture. They had two sons and later moved back to the farm. One day Mrs. Trudel had gone to Edmonton to visit with her family. Someone went looking for Joseph but could not find him. Later he was found in the well. The police were called and foul play was suspected.

The farm was later purchased by William Chileen.

## Mr. and Mrs. George Turner

by Rita Price

George and Jessie Turner were both born in Scotland. George came to Canada before the First World War in 1912. He came first to Ontario and worked as a hired man there for a few years. Life seemed very busy all the time and if a person got a day off he usually spent it picking apples for the farmer.

George came west for a look around, and joined the Canadian Armed Forces — 31st. Battalion. This got him back to Scotland, and on to the front lines in Germany and France. Jessie was a faithful girlfriend, and near the end of the war George and Jessie were married, and came to Canada in 1919. They settled in Calgary and worked at Swifts Packing Plant for three years. Jessie enjoyed Calgary, and many kind neighbours helped her to adjust to the new Canadian ways. She soon learned the art of making excellent bread, how to shop for bargains and where the second-hand stores were, etc.



George and Rita Price (nee Turner).

While in Calgary, they were blessed first with a son, Dave and a year and a half later with a daughter, Rita.

All the while, vision of being a farmer and working for himself, and doing things on his own time kept going around in George's head. One day he went into the Soldier Settlement Board office and asked about getting a farm. There was a big map on the wall, and the fellow just stuck a pin in a half section and that was it!

The next spring George went out to see where the land was, etc., and found it was in the Millerfield Flat, fairly close to East Coulee, in the Drumheller area. Even that bald prairie looked good then, when it was covered with fresh green prairie wool that had never seen a cultivator.

Mother and we two little ones spent part of the next winter there, in a tent with a wooden floor, before Dad was free to come. There was a little sod shack for the cow and calf, and part of the time the ten hens lived in the tent to keep them from freezing. Mother tells of how the poor things laid fresh eggs for her in a spot at the foot of her bed and how much they were appreciated.

In the spring, Dad arrived from Calgary to get the



Dave and Rita Turner, 1928.

one small field planted to wheat. Eventually they got a small frame house built and also a barn, and the other necessary things for a small farm. In the fall, a couple of years later, they sold a train car-load of top grade wheat. It was that year that they owned a second-hand "Baby Grand" car.

We all have some good memories of church picnics, school concerts and days at the river, fishing and swimming. However, times changed and it just



didn't rain. There was very little snow and the dust blew, drifting over the fences at times. The "Hungry Thirties" were upon us! It was terrible!

In the summer of 1932, Mum and Dad took a trip to Westlock to visit the Hogarths — Mother had lived just up the road a ways from the Hogarth family when she was a girl. It was while they were gone that Dave and I had a calf take a full pail of milk away from us on the way to the house.

Anyway, it was in November, 1932 that we piled all our belongings into a railway car (horses, cows and everything) and came to Westlock.

The R. Hogarths kindly had us stay with them till we found a little empty house on a farm where there was room for cows and horses and even a straw pile. It was the Gifford place, near Herb Cross's, west of Hazel Bluff. The house was very small, a kitchen, a bedroom with a closet. I got the closet for a bedroom and slept on the floor of it, on a quilt that was folded over three times. I remember wondering whether I would smother in the night if the clothes hanging in there fell down on me!

From there, Dave and I attended Hazel Bluff School and made a lot of long lasting good friendships.

In the spring we moved to the Nielson place, very close to the Pembina River — our log house was right near the river bank. It was a rented place and for the next few years all of us worked very hard. We attended the Riverdale school and both finished Grade IX there. Dad often drove to Westlock to shop in the winter, with the cutter and our little roan horse, "Tiny". Quite a long cold trip on a winter day. The rest of the shopping was done at Rossington.

Dave joined the Air Force and left his model A Ford behind so I got to drive it a time or two, but then there was still more work for the three of us. Mother and I forked hay in those days and very often we thought we'd never have the strength to do it again tomorrow! It was always a blessing when it rained on Sunday, because then Dad would sleep most of the day and Mum and I would go picking wild raspberries or pin cherries or whatever was ripe. It made delicious canned fruit and jam. One fall I stayed home to help harvest and drove an iron-lugged tractor, pulling the binder. That was probably the hardest work I ever did — the tractor seemed never to want to turn around at the right place.

Good prices for our produce and long hours of hard work brought us to the place where Dad was able to buy a farm. He bought the Goodwin place, next to Hogarth's, that fall and moved nearly all his belongings. That was a stroke of good luck, for if we hadn't moved in the fall, the flooding river would have taken everything we had the following spring.

Mum and Dad prospered on that farm that was their own. Dad's Jersey-cow herd grew large and produced a lot of cream for sale and milk to feed the pigs. Mum grew a huge vegetable garden and lots of nice flowers. She was even loved by the pigs and cows, because when they heard her coming from the garden to the pasture fence, the cows bellowed and the pigs smiled with anticipation, as she unloaded her wheelbarrow of cracked cabbages, and beets and pea vines, etc. Mum got much pleasure from the ordinary, little things of life.

They remodelled the old farm house and eventually enjoyed all the modern conveniences. The years rolled by, though, and in 1963 they retired and moved to town. The Ian MacIntyres bought the farm.

Dad passed away in 1970 and Mum will be ninety years old in September. While in town, Mother was an active member of the Hospital Auxiliary and knitted many, many dozens of nylon slippers for the hospital patients.

Dave and his wife Berna have five children and live in Westlock. I, with my husband George, have four children and we live in Tofield.

## Clarence Twidt by Phyllis Twidt

Clarence was born in South Dakota, and came west with his parents in 1910, to the New Norway district.

He started to work out at many different jobs when he was fifteen years of age. For one winter he was draying in Fort Saskatchewan with his team of horses. He went back to New Norway in the spring of 1930, and got six horses. With one team hitched to



Clarence Twidt, 1925.

the wagon, second team and wagon tied to the back of the first one, and the third team following at the back of the second wagon. With the horses strung out this way he started out across country with his load, for the Pibroch district, travelling part of the way over the old Landing Trail. It took six days to make the journey from New Norway to Pibroch.

Clarence then rented a farm three miles from Pibroch, and farmed there for a few years. Later on he met Phyllis Gurney and they were married, and moved north to the Cross Lake district.



Clarence Twidt's horses ready for the field.

## The Leo Tymkow Family History by Helen Tymkow

We moved to the Westlock area from Edmonton, the Summer of 1959. The land we purchased was formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Woroniuk (S½-16-60-26-W4).

Leo grew up in the Halach area and I was raised in the Pibroch East District. We were married in Westlock, the Summer of 1956, and moved to our farm north-east of Pibroch (S.W. 34-61-26-W4). Upon arriving that day we were greeted by a hail-storm, which wiped out half of the crop. Then we had an early frost. After taking off what little crop remained, we decided to move to Edmonton and work for the winter. However we remained there for 3 years. Leo worked at various jobs, mainly building construction, while I worked at Western Plywood Factory. Working in the city and trying to farm on week-ends didn't work out too well, so we decided to purchase more land and go farming. In the Spring of 1959 we were fortunate to find land near Westlock, and moved back among family and friends. Our closest neighbors were John and Dorine Scott and girls. We really appreciated all the help and encouragement they gave us. In 1966, we purchased the former Tom Lane quarter across the road from our farmstead. We moved again in 1973, this time to our new house, a few feet away.



Leo Tymko family. Leo, Helen and boys.

Our first son, Timothy was born in August 1964 and is attending the University of Alberta's Faculty of Engineering. Danny, our second son, was born in April 1966 and attends Westlock High School.

## Arnie G. and Emily A. Vadheim by the family

Arne Vadheim was born in Vadheim, Norway, on August 28, 1879. He came to North Dakota before coming to Alberta.

Emily (Remillard) Vadheim was born in Amery, Wisconsin, U.S.A. on March 6, 1889 and came to Legal with her parents. Arne and Emily were married February 18, 1908.

Their first homestead was on the NE¼-18-59-26-W4 and they finally bought the complete section.

Following a fire which burned down their barn, a new larger barn was constructed, with many neighbors helping at the "barn raising", which called for a barn dance after completion.

Arne enjoyed farm life, was an active member of the U.F.A., and entered exhibits at the Westlock Fair, winning many prizes.

Emily was kept busy with children and farm





Arne and Emily Vadheim — Wedding picture, 1908.

chores. She was very active with St. Mary's Altar Society.

The cream and butter from the farm was whipped into town by horse and buggy at great speed by Emily.

Both Arne and Emily were members and avid curlers with the Westlock Curling Club. They were



Vadheim Home.

also members of the Pembina U.F.A. (Clyde) Co-operative Association.

Many good old country dances were held in the old farm house. While Arne was farming in the district he chopped many a bushel of grain for the neighbors and threshed their crops.

They had a family of nine children:

Ida Baxandall lives in Vegreville.

Oscar resides in Edmonton, where his sister Laura Ellerbeck also lives.

Ernest Vadheim lives in Westlock, Albert is deceased and J. Henry was killed in action in World War II.

Marie Hines lives in Virginia, U.S.A., Edward Vadheim is living at Athabasca and Louise Cormier is at present living in Westlock.

Arne died July 30, 1941 and Emily passed away September 30, 1968. They are both buried in St. Mary's cemetery.

### L. P. Valcourt

Leopaul is the son of David Valcourt and Irma Coulombe. His grandfather Coulombe had a blacksmith shop many years ago on the old Pickardville site, which was on the corner of the southeast quarter of section 3-59-27-W4, across the road from the Pioneer Store.

Leopaul was raised, with his four brothers and three sisters on the north half of section 18-59-28-W4, which was purchased by his parents on January 29, 1920. In 1928 they moved to a homestead in Bonnyville, Alberta and returned to Arvilla in 1933, where most of the children attended school.

In a double wedding ceremony on June 29, 1943



L. P. Valcourt family.

Leopaul married Flore Majeau, while his sister Lucille, married Raymond Theberge of Pickardville. Also, on this joyous occasion, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Valcourt, renewed their wedding vows, celebrating twenty-five years of marriage.

Since 1946, Leopaul and Flore have resided in the Pickardville area, on the NE ¼ 35-58-1-W5. They have raised a family of four girls and one boy.

## James Laziere “Jim” Vanalstine by Phyllis Twidt

Back in the year 1888, nineteen years old R. Lottie McCabe stood before Rev. Cheeseman with twenty-six years old Jim Vanalstine to exchange wedding vows. This was in the town of Brownsville, N.Y., when Jim was working as a carpenter.

At that time a new-fangled mode of transportation was becoming quite popular, and Jim saw possibilities in the automotive business. In 1910 he and his wife moved to Detroit, Mich., and he began working in the body building section of an automobile plant, at the time when assembly line pro-

cedure was being introduced to speed up mass production. The feverish haste and bustle of the business was incompatible with the Vanalstines, so in 1911 they left Detroit and headed West. They didn't stop until they reached Alberta, where they took up a homestead a mile north and a mile and a half east of what is now Pibroch. At the time of their arrival there were no roads, no trails nor no clearing; just wild open areas and lots of bush.

With hard work and diligence the farm became a profitable enterprise, and after about twenty-five years, the Vanalstines retired into Westlock.

Jim had the first saw-mill in the area and later, the first threshing machine, with which he used to travel as far as the Dapp area, doing custom work for the farmers who had crops to thresh. One fall he was away from home for twenty-one days, working on various farms. At that time fresh meat was hard to come by, so most of the meals consisted of chicken as these were readily available. When he was back home again, he told “Lot” as he affectionately called his wife, never to even mention chicken to him!

The Vanalstines had only one child, a son they named James Archibald, whom they lost during the First Great War. He was a member of the 50th Battalion, and was killed during one of the battles around Lens.



Jim and Lottie Vanalstine on their 60th Wedding Anniversary, Sept. 11, 1948.



Jim Vanalstine and turkey flock, 1933.

In 1930 a disastrous fire completely destroyed their home, which had contained a lot of relics that had been handed down for many generations' trophies and souvenirs of the family's early days in America. At the time of the fire Jim was away to Edmonton, but Mrs. Vanalstine showed great courage by rescuing Jim's crippled brother, who was residing with them by aiding him to safety from the burning house.

Over 200 years ago, one of Jim's ancestors, Lambert Vanalstine, refused to join the rebels who wanted independence from Britain, so he fled to Ontario, where he settled near Lachine. He and his three boys joined the army of General Burgoyne, to help try to hold the Empire together. All four were



casualties in the subsequent fighting, but a grateful king made a decree that all descendants of those lost in the wars could use the letters "U.E." after their names for evermore, signifying they were United Empire loyalists. Jim was proud to add those letters after his name.

Mr. Vanalstine served on the Pibroch School Board for 11 years, as well as taking an active part in many community projects.

When they celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on September 11, 1948, Mrs. Vanalstine stated she'd had "sixty years of happiness because I had the right man."

### **James E. Vannatter by Loyd McMillan**

Jim Vannatter came west from Ontario in 1903. He was a carpenter by trade but rather than work in Edmonton, he was tempted to look for a homestead (160 acres of land for \$10.00).

He came through the Riviere Qui Barre district and followed the trail north to the William Elliott homestead. From there he followed the McMillan trail which was also used for hauling lumber from sawmills two miles north of the George McMillan homestead. He filed on the SE¼-8-58-26-W4 in March, 1903. As he was not a young man he found homesteading rather hard work, but with some carpenter work to help out financially, he got his patent in 1909.

When the Vermilion Spring school district was formed in 1906, Jim got the job of building the schoolhouse and out-buildings at twenty-five cents an hour. He also built a barn for my Dad in 1913, which is still standing nice and straight.

In 1913 Jim bought the quarter section across the road from his homestead which was C.P.R. land, the SW¼-9-58-26-W4.

Jim was interested in community affairs. He was a trustee on the school board, director for some years of the Busby Agricultural Society, and for one or two years was the president. He took part in work bees to improve the Forest Hill cemetery. He was fond of music but was unable to play any musical instrument, so he bought an Edison phonograph with cylinder records, which was great entertainment for both himself and all his neighbours. When the crystal radio sets, with headphones came on the market he was the first to get a set. He was also the first to get a battery operated radio when they became available.

Jim always farmed with horses. He kept some cattle and a few pigs, so to have chop for the pigs he bought a crusher that was powered by one horse going round and round hitched to a pole on the side.

In 1923, a son Joe and wife came out to the farm

from Ontario, to visit and possibly take over the farm. This arrangement didn't work out and he sold the farm to the E. Wiedrick family in 1925.

Jim didn't like to leave the district, so he lived with the Wiedricks for some time until he got a small house built on a quarter of raw land he bought, a mile west of the farm, which was the NE¼-6-58-26-W4.

Another son, William, and wife came from Ontario to live with him until his passing away in 1929. He is buried in the Forest Hill cemetery, which he helped to improve.

### **VanNieuvenhuysen Family written by (daughter) Helen Larison**

Eugene and Victor VanNieuvenhuysen, two brothers, came to Alberta in 1902 or 1903 from the village of Namur, in the Province of Quebec, not far from Ottawa. Dad's parents came from Belgium. Dad and uncle Victor stayed in Alberta one or two years, then went back to his old home in 1904 and married my mother, whose parents came from France in 1870, one of the old pioneers. In fact mother's father, Mr. Pickouse, and a Huguenot minister, Rev. Mousseau, came from France and helped start the first Presbyterian church in Mamur in 1876-1878, and it still stands and is very active.



The VanNieuvenhuysen family. L to R: Mother, Albert, Helen, Lilian, Cecile, Octave, Florida and Father.

In 1905 my sister Florida was born. Juliette was born in 1907 and Andrew in 1908.

Dad was a logger and worked in the logging camps. In 1909 he came back to Alberta, and took up a homestead on the S W 9-59-27W4. He built a log cabin, cutting and squaring the logs, and putting a sod roof on. Then he sent for his family. Dad met mother and the three children in Edmonton with a

team of horses and a covered wagon. He had to swim the horses across the Wabash Creek (as it was in flood) to his farm situated just across the creek, north on the meridian road, five miles south of the Hazel Bluff Church. Mother was frightened with all this, and glad to be in her own home. By then Dad had his twenty acres broken. He had horses, oxen, one cow, one pig and chickens, and always a good garden. He had a rifle, and there was always wild meat on the table. They never went hungry.

In 1909 there was a store and Post Office in Pickardville.



Mr. VanNieuvenhuyse house on correction line, three miles from meridian. Built in 1914.

I, Helen, was born in 1910, the first of their children to be born in Alberta. Mother found herself alone with her three small children when the pains started. She ran for help screaming. The neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain and Mr. and Mrs. St. Louis, half a mile across the Wabash Creek (which was in flood again), heard Mom. They used Dad's boat to come across the flooded creek. Dad was at Mr. Racine's, a mile away at the time. Mr. Racine loaned Dad his horse and they had to swim across the creek. I was born that night. The two ladies took care of Mom. (Those were the good old days). Five more children were born there. That made nine children. The oldest children went to the Racine school, then to the Eastburg school in 1924.

By 1918 or 1920 the homestead was all under cultivation, done by horses and oxen. I remember one time when the horse flies were bad the oxen stampeded and went into the barn, plough and all, Dad behind (some language he used). They broke the side of the barn. The grain was cut by binder, stooked and stacked. Then the big steam engine and threshing machine, owned by Mr. Felix Goupie, of Pickardville, went from farm to farm in the fall and threshed the grain.

Dad sold his homestead to Mr. Lambert in 1924 and bought a beautiful home on the correction line,

three miles west of the fifth meridian. They raised their family there. He added a section of land later and became a big farmer in his day. He had his own threshing machine and did custom work with his tractor and breaking plough. He owned a full line of tractor machinery, also horses. This was the time when many young immigrants came to Alberta that Dad hired. When I think back how kind my parents were to the young men. Many didn't even know how to harness a horse, and Dad would get me to show them how. (I should have been born a boy).

We were a very happy family. I remember how Mom would cook twenty loaves of bread at a time, and rhubarb pies. There was always dessert on the table. Many a traveller stopped for a meal and bed, and room for their horses. There was never any charge.

Florida married John Miller, and they farmed at Hazel Bluff. In 1930 a tragedy happened, a drowning accident. Florida's husband was drowned trying to rescue three girls. My sister Lillian, aged twelve, and Ida McMann, aged fourteen were also drowned. Dad saved Juliette, also Mom and I. The family was never the same again. They lost another son, Octave, aged eleven, a year later. (They had lost their baby Mae, aged one year, with the flu before they left the homestead.)

That was the end of my school and Mom sent me to take care of Florida and her son Albert. Alex was born the next year, and I came home a year later. Florida passed away at the age of forty-five.

Juliette, a school teacher, went back to teach at Lac La Nonne took Cecile, who was recovering from Polio, with her. This just left Albert at home. Juliette died at the age of thirty-two.

Dad sold his land to Andrew, who had come back from working four years at the Great Bear Lake Radium Mines. He married Blanche Ansel. Later he bought a partnership in the Westlock Hotel, and later bought the John Deere Implement Company from Frank Merryweather. He passed away at the age of seventy, and Blanche is retired in Westlock.

Thorwald Larison also worked two years at the Great Bear Lake Mines. When he came home in 1938 we were married and we farmed at Rich Valley, where our two sons were born, Roy in 1939, and Richard in 1941. Later we farmed at Shoal Creek. About ten years ago I sold the farm to Roy and retired in Westlock.

Cecile married George Utas. They bought a small hatchery in the Whissell Subdivision, and later built the new hatchery in town. George died at the age of sixty, and the hatchery was sold to their daughter June and her husband John Deshoux. Cecile is retired in Westlock.



Albert married Norma Parsons and farms at Pibroch. They have a son Nolan, who farms at Pibroch, and a daughter Faye, who lives in Calgary. God bless our parents.

### **Mr. William (Bill) Virding** **by Mary Rector**

Mr. Virding was a well educated gentleman from Sweden, having spent 19 years attending school. His folks were well to do and sent him to school in different countries so that he learned to speak several languages. I always felt he could have attained a very high position in life with all his knowledge, but he was a shy man and seemed quite content being just a small frog in a big pond.

He settled in the Arvilla district and was married and had one daughter. I don't think he ever actually got over the crushing blow of his wife leaving him and taking tiny Nora who he adored with her.

My folks (Mr. and Mrs. Measures) were good friends with Mr. Virding for many years. The poor fellow suffered terribly from asthma and finally had to give up farming. He lived with us in Pickardville until he built his own home across the railroad tracks. Mrs. M. White later owned his property. Although he was no relative of ours I'm sure no blood kin could have been more loved. He was always considered part of the family. In the evenings when it was homework time for us attending school he was always willing to give us a hand. How I appreciated his help especially with my French lessons!

He was a fine carpenter and was kept busy in the building trade. We could never understand why all the dogs in town snapped at his heels and barked every where he went because he was very kind and we never knew of him ever abusing them. We finally came to the conclusion it was because he always trapped and skinned animals and no doubt had that wild scent on him which the dogs didn't like. Mr. Virding was a very skilled taxidermist and mounted several very life like birds for my father. I'll never forget one night a girl friend was visiting in our home and as we went by lamplight into the dark living room, the first thing she saw was the bright eyes of a large owl looking down at her from his perch on the wall. How she did scream!!!

Mr. Virding was also a talented accordin player and often a bunch of us teenagers spent our evenings in his home dancing to his lovely music. We would dance until he would be so choked up with asthma he would have to quit playing. It is seldom we hear those beautiful waltzes, polkas etc. today but whenever I do I am reminded of Mr. Virding. I still claim he could make the best coffee of anyone.

He was also quite a marksman with the bow and

arrows which he made. My arms were often black and blue from trying to be another "William Tell". Funny thing he could hit an apple on his son's head while I had trouble in hitting the bales of hay used for the target!

Mr. Virding moved to B.C. in the 1940's where he hoped the climate would be better for his asthmatic condition. It proved to be of no help and it wasn't long until he passed away and was buried in Kelowna, B.C.

### **William Verding** **as remembered by Beryl Erickson**

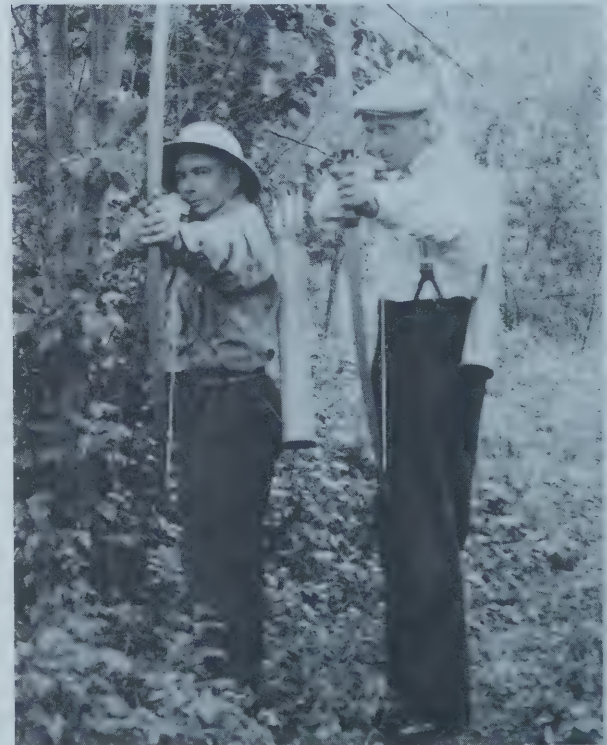
Mr. William (Bill) Verding and his cousin, Olaf Sandwall, came from Sweden about 1910 and homesteaded here in Alberta.

Mr. Verding's homestead was the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -9-58-27-W4 and Olaf Sandwall's was the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -8-58-27-W4.

Mr. Verding married Ema Foljum, a widow with one daughter, Sada, and later had another daughter, Nora; she left and went back to her folks in 1922, taking her two daughters with her.

Bill farmed until 1934 when he sold out and moved to Pickardville, and later, to B.C., where he passed away.

Mr. Sandwall never married. He farmed his homestead until he passed away.



Right — Bill Verding. He made the bows and arrows himself. He was a splendid marksman.

## The Violet Family

### by Vance and Mary

My Father, Earl Violet, was born in Boulder, Colorado in 1890. In 1900 he came with his family to Millet, Alberta, where they homesteaded. In 1906 they moved to Edmonton, where he did carpenter work with his Dad until 1909, then he came to Hazel Bluff and took up a homestead.

My Mother, who was Edith Mannen, was born in North English, Iowa, in 1896, and came to the Hazel Bluff district with her family around 1907. She attended school at Hazel Bluff and Miss Daphne Garrison was one of her teachers.

In 1915, she and my Dad were married, Mary Jorgenson being her bridesmaid.

They raised a family of three; Willis, born in 1916, Vance in 1918 and Helen, born in 1920. We all attended school at the Bluff.

Times were hard so Dad had to work out to provide for the family, mostly doing carpenter work, helping to build houses, barns etc.

Mother loved flowers and worked for Mrs. Neilson in her flower shop, also as seamstress at Leo Pelletier's dry cleaning establishment.

I (Vance) bought their farm in 1946 after returning home from World War II. My folks then moved to Westlock to live. Later they sold their house and moved to Edmonton where they operated a store for about three years. Finding this was not the life they wanted, they moved back to Westlock where Dad built another house; it was here they lived until their passing.

Dad passed away in 1966 at the age of 76. Mother was quite active until 1974, when she fell and broke her hip. From then on she spent her remaining years in hospital, auxiliary and nursing home, where she passed away in 1979 at the age of 83. They are both laid to rest in Hazel Bluff Cemetery.

Willis lives in Dawson Creek, Helen in Edmonton, and I (Vance) in Westlock.

### Vance and Mary Violet

I (Vance) was born at Hazel Bluff in 1918. It was there I took all my schooling. In 1942 I was called in the army. After spending two months training in Grand Prairie, I was sent overseas where I spent three years and seven months.

When I returned home in 1946, I bought my Dad's farm. Having no livestock to take care of, I worked out at various jobs, as well as farming.

I (Mary) was born at Dapp in 1919, and it was there I took all my schooling. In 1939 I was married to Gaston (Mandy) Thierstein, and we raised two boys; Herman, born in 1940 and Denis in 1943.

After losing my husband suddenly of a heart



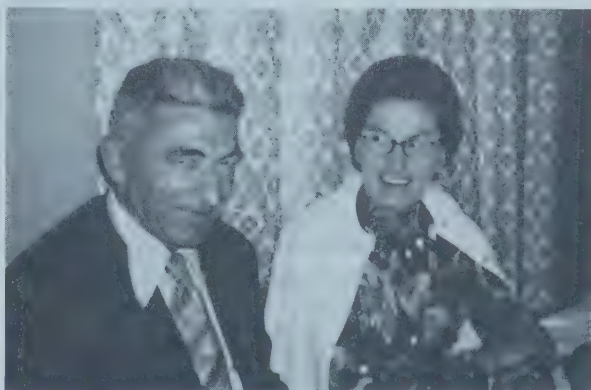
Edith and Earl Violet. 1949



Mr. Violet, Vance, Willis, Helen and Mrs. Violet.

attack in 1963, I had a sale and went out to work in 1964. It was then I met Vance, and we were married in April, 1966, at Westlock.

We bought the house Vance's Dad had built in Westlock, and this is where we still reside.



Vance and Mary Violet.



Vance sold his farm in 1967, and since then has worked at the creamery, the seed cleaning plant, and his last work was as a custodian at the Westlock school. We are retired now, enjoying a few trips to B.C. to visit the boys and their families, who both live there.

## The Harry Waggs of Clyde

by Isobel Rippon

John Henry Wagg — known to all as Harry — was born in Victoria, B.C. in 1894. Before World War I he apprenticed to a plumber, but jobs were slack so he went harvesting in Alberta around the Vermilion area. When the fall work was over he returned to Victoria. At the onset of the war he joined up and left with the 48th Battalion and later transferred to the Engineers. He was wounded in action while serving overseas in Britain and France. After discharge, the life of a farmer called him back to Alberta where he took a course at the Agricultural



James Lees.

College before procuring, through the Soldier Settlement Board, a quarter section one half mile north of the Clyde-Westlock junction.

In 1923, after clearing wheat from the “front room” of his house, Harry sent for his Scottish fiancée in Glasgow. Sadie Lees sailed on the “Athenia” and arrived in Edmonton in time for a New Year’s Eve wedding — not waiting for 1924, Leap Year was a time when a girl could pop the question and it was thought to be more or less out of desperation. While the completely different life on the farm was very trying for a city girl, it also had its lighter moments. Sadie’s first effort at baking bread was to say the least — a failure, and the “hard-as-a-rock” product was thrown out to the dog, Sport. Unfortunately, Sport chose this time to take off on one of his usual rovings and Harry, being a tease, told her the bread had likely killed the poor animal. Sadie naively believed him until he eventually explained



Sadie, Harry, George and Isabel Wagg with horse “Paddy.”

the ways of a dog. She quickly learned, however, and with help from good neighbors and an easy going husband her baking became excellent — her pies second to none.

Since the water supply was very inadequate for Harry’s livestock of four horses and twelve head of cattle, a new well was a necessity. This project is only noteworthy because of its depth which was 400 feet and very salty. There were only three wells in the area that were that deep and Harry used to say they had to dig all the way to the China Sea — accounting for the salty taste.

Sadie was well known at that time for singing at many public affairs. She regularly entertained at the UFA Annual Convention in the area and although she had no formal voice training, her songs were enjoyed by everyone at concerts, weddings and house parties.

Berry-picking was a must in summer. Strawberries, raspberries, saskatoons, blueberries, gooseberries and cranberries were part of the canned supply for winter. Sadie had a delicious combination of raspberries and saskatoons which tasted like cher-



Back row, L to R: Harry Wagg, Cyril Waller, Ed Forbes. Front row: ?, ?, Mrs. Wagg, Mrs. Wm. Taylor, Violet and Isabel Wagg. The car is Forbes “Essex.”

ries. Women and children all donned coveralls and tied them with binder twine at the wrists and ankles to keep out the mosquitoes. Citronella oil was used to protect the bare skin of hands, face and neck. It was all the more of an unusual sight because women did not wear slacks very often, then.

Of course, a few days each summer were always enjoyed at Island Lake — a favourite swimming hole in the thirties despite a few bloodsuckers and the many ever-present mosquitoes. Sometimes a cottage was shared with the Forbes or Green families, but usually just mothers and children, while the men tended to the haying and daily needs of the livestock.

The Wagg farm was noted for being one of the poorest to yield a decent crop, and this fact, combined with the difficult times of the 1930's, prompted Harry to sell out and take his family to Victoria in 1938. He returned to the plumbing trade and Sadie was glad to return to city life — never forgetting the warm friendships made at Clyde. Harry died in 1962 from leukemia at the age of 68, while Sadie lived to be 82, passing away in 1980.

Harry and Sadie had four children, all born in the Clyde area. Isabel was born in 1924 and attended Clyde Consolidated School until Grade seven. She married Stan Rippon (formerly of Gibbons, Alberta) in 1947 and still lives in Victoria, B.C. Doris died at the age of three from the scarlet fever epidemic in the winter of 1929/1930. George was born in 1930 and in 1968 married Herta Munroe. He is an operations manager for the Ministry of Transportation and Highways in B.C., and also lives in Victoria. Faye, born in 1937, was married in 1959 to John Thomson. They are presently stationed in Calgary with the Armed Forces.

In 1925, Sadie's nephew, James Lees, also came to Clyde from Glasgow, Scotland. For many years he worked for George and Donny MacLachlan and was well known for his patronage of McDonnell's Ice Cream Parlor in Clyde. In 1938 he moved to Victoria and in 1953 married Lillian Hawthorn. After putting his hand to different jobs he spent 25 years with the B.C. Department of Public Works, retiring in 1971. They live in Victoria, too.

### **Pastor William Wahl Family by Betty Steinbring**

Pop, Mom, Bill and I arrived in Westlock in September, 1948, just in time to start the new school year.

Pop was, at 56 years of age, beginning a new mission congregation, the type of ministry he liked best. His church was just an old school that had been brought in close to the water tower area. It had pews,

altar furnishings, a beautiful pedal organ and a lot of enthusiastic members.

Not only would he serve these people but on Sunday afternoon would hold a service at Busby. On alternate Sundays he would go to Flatbush and Fawcett. Busby and Flatbush had "real" churches but at Fawcett we used the school.

The times at Fawcett are especially memorable. The people, squeezed into a variety of odd-sized desks, sang and worshipped in a way that was just so special. However, Westlock was home-base. We originally lived a bit west of town on the Jerke farm until the new parsonage was built. The parsonage was built by volunteer labour of the congregation members.

Pop baptized, married and buried. He formed a little brass band, and a choir which regularly participated, especially at the mission festivals, which were a highlight of every summer.

Mom was busy too. She was great at welcoming people, was a good listener — she played the organ, sang in the choir, cleaned, polished and gardened — a good Pastor's Wife with a hearty laugh.

Bill graduated in 1949 and worked for Frank Merryweather, then transferred to John Deere in Edmonton. He went on into the oil industry and regularly flies to Houston and other points south on business. He married Betty Spragge, who is a travel agent, so she also regularly flies or drives south, but has made some interesting trips north, too.

I graduated in 1952 and worked in an office in Edmonton for a year.

In 1953, Pop suffered a massive stroke and passed away on May 4th. He was sixty years old. Mom and I moved to Barrhead that year, where she lived in her little log house until 1975. I taught school in Barrhead, where I met and married Bill Steinbring. We farmed there until 1975, when we moved to Edmonton with our two children, Pat and Rick. Mom also moved to Edmonton, where she passed away in 1980.

### **The Charlie Watson Family**

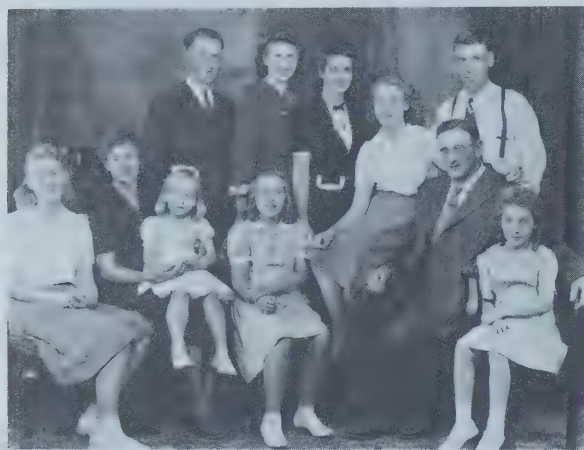
Charles Louis Watson was born at Yarmouth, Ontario, July 9, 1891; to his parents Elijah Bunker and Louisa Augusta Watson, (nee Vaughn). His father was a farmer and machinist working mainly on locomotives for the railways. Charlie, as he was known throughout his life, was the seventh in a family of eight.

He came west with his parents, two sisters and one brother, to Innisfail, Alberta, in 1903. Their first home there was a small peaked roofed house.

Charlie and his father set up a cordwood sawing outfit and later a small threshing machine, run with a



one cylinder stationary gas engine, both pulled around with horses. The sheaves were all stacked in the fall and the threshing was done through the winter. They travelled the districts and did custom threshing and wood sawing as the weather permitted. It was on one of these jobs that Charlie met Ella Mae Pollock, while working for her parents; Arthur and Annie Pollock, (nee Lackey). They had also come from Ontario.



Charlie Watson family, 1943. Standing, L to R: Harold, Helen, Dorothy, Ivan. Seated: Alice, Ella, Shirley, Sheila, Kathleen, Charlie and Sylvia.

Ella Mae was born at Bracebridge, Ontario, in 1896, and moved to Innisfail with her parents and the rest of her family. She received her education in this area, and attended the Camrose Normal School from which she graduated from in 1915. She then taught in the Knee Hill Valley and Innisfail area.

Charlie and Ella were married in St. Andrew's House, Olds, Alberta on June 29, 1918. Ella gave up her teaching career to become a wife and mother. They settled on a farm just above the junction of the Big and Little Red Deer Rivers, west of Innisfail. Their farm was between the two rivers and produced good crops. A daughter, Helen, was born there on April 20, 1919. That same spring the threshing machine was destroyed by fire. Charlie rebuilt this machine, mostly made of wood and had it ready for use when threshing time came. The machine was hand fed and the straw had to be stacked by hand, grain was discharged into a wagon box or into sacks. On June 14, 1921, a second daughter, Dorothy, was born there also.

In 1922 Charlie and Ella sold and moved to the Pickardville district after a brief stay in Edmonton. The Watsons' now had a 490 Chev. car. They lived on the S.W. ¼ sec. 6 township 59, range 26, w4th meridian. This land belonged to Mrs. Sandison and

her son James. There was a telephone in the house and many people came from Pickardville and the surrounding area to phone the doctor at Westlock. Charlie cared for the Sandison cattle and did custom work and mechanical repairs. A son, Harold was born here on Feb. 19, 1923. Charlie then bought the N.E. ¼ of the same section and the family moved once more. On Feb. 14, 1925, another son, Ivan, was born, a blue baby, with the umbilical cord around his neck three times. Charlie took delivery of the baby and with mouth to mouth breathing put life into him.

The well did not have enough water, although it was 60' deep, and water had to be hauled from a spring ½ mile away, that came out of a seam of coal, that in later years became known as the Sutherland Coal Mine.

About 1923 Charlie bought a 12-20 Case tractor and started crushing grain and breaking land, sawing wood, etc. Case had made a change in this model, from a splash oiling system to a pressure oiling system, by drilling the crankshaft. They did not however, put in a third main bearing in the center to distribute the oil to #2 and #3 connecting rod bearings. As a result, oil would not flow across the center of gravity (caused by the spin of the shaft) from #1 and #4 rod bearings to #2 and #3 rod bearings. Thus #2 and #3 pistons and cylinders were not oiled. In 60 days the rings went down between the pistons and cylinders. Charlie had paid cash for this tractor and the Case Co. refused any assistance whatever to correct this problem. Charlie went to Edmonton and bought an old 16 horsepower "Galoway", one cylinder, engine with flywheels each weighing 600 lbs. to thresh and grind with until the tractor block could be bored out and dry sleeved to repair it.

On Nov. 16, 1927, a third daughter, Alice was born. Ella was now teaching Helen and Dorothy the first grades of school at home, as she felt it was too far for Helen to attend school alone. Later, when Harold was old enough to start grade one, they all attended Woodglen School. About this time the Watsons made a change from the Chev car to a Model 'T' Ford.

Charlie hired a new well bored and at 42' got a flowing well. Water ran all over the yard and they had great difficulty getting the cribbing down. A ditch was plowed with the breaking plow and neighbors helped to dig a pond for the water. Here we all learned to swim and skate.

In 1928 Charlie bought a new 15-30 McCormick Deering tractor, a 10' power binder, a 20" I.H.C. breaking plow, a used 28" McCormick Deering threshing machine, a 10' I.H.C. tandem disc, and Pete Deshoux Sr's used 1925 Model 'T' one ton Ford truck. To pay for this equipment, he contracted land

clearing and breaking. He hired several men to cut brush and grub stumps. Then he pulled the stumps with the tractor and broke the land. Some farmers had him disc down this freshly broken land for them the first time, as many had only horses to farm with.

Charlie became councillor for Division 6 of the Municipal District of Hazelwood and was instrumental in the buying of a large grader for building better roads in Hazelwood. This unit was pulled with Joe Demers' large Caterpillar tractor, but the front wheels pulled right off it on the demonstration run. They did not buy this machine, but got a Russell grader instead. This machine was used for many years and built many grades around the Hazelwood district. A few years later the M.D. bought their own Caterpillar gasoline 60 to pull the grader and with dozer blade and a push pole under the 'cat' they also opened roads after severe snow storms. To maintain the roads here, Charlie bought an Adams leaning wheel grader with 12' moldboard and a 8' 2-blade drag. These were used in tandem, pulled by a 22-36 McCormick Deering tractor. This outfit maintained the roads in division 6 until the districts were consolidated. When Charlie purchased this tractor for the M.D. of Hazelwood, Division 6, from Mr. Crone, the I.H.C. dealer in Westlock, in the early thirties, it was the only I.H.C. tractor sold north of Edmonton that year.

On Feb. 25, 1929, a daughter, Kathleen was born. Times were tough in the thirties and the Watsons worked hard to raise more of the things they needed on the farm. Ella raised bedding plants, a large garden, chickens, geese, turkeys, and a few sheep. These gave her a little cash and supplied good vegetables, meat, eggs, and milk for the table, down for pillows, wool for blankets, quilt, and yarn. We always had a large rhubarb patch and Ella preserved rhubarb with raspberries, rhubarb with strawberries, rhubarb with bananas, rhubarb with pineapple, and made plenty of rhubarb relish. Neighbors must have done the same because she sold and gave away lots of rhubarb — the more it was picked, the more tender the stalks were. She also picked currants and wild cranberries and combining these fruits and berries made jams and jellies. She also spent long hours preparing and canning vegetables and meat. It was always an exciting day when apples arrived from Grandad Pollock in Kelowna, B.C. Charlie had wheat made into flour and all the by-products at the flourmill in Westlock. To supplement sugar, he started an apiary and produced honey for our use and for sale. He bought a knitting machine at a second hand store and with the yarn from the sheep knit socks for the family. Ella had to turn the heel and finish the foot by hand.

In 1930, Charlie's parents came to visit for Christmas, but before Christmas his mother, a diabetic, took sick and died. When the doctor came to call he inquired about the children. When Ella said that the eldest was sick in bed, he asked to see her. After checking her, he announced that she had scarlet fever and that we were under quarantine. As a result, the Watson family spent Christmas and several weeks thereafter at home. Ella was a good nurse and administered home remedies for all the children. No one else took sick. No arrangements were made for us to get groceries etc., so my parents broke quarantine to do so. They were fined \$20 for this although no one they contacted ever caught the disease. One day after we had been shut in for quite awhile, Charlie decided that it was time we had some fun. So after we were all loaded up in the Model T, he took us for an exciting ride around the yard. Charlie and Ella knew that life could not be all work and often took time for picnics, ballgames, and all sorts of family fun. This made being part of a big family a pleasure for sure.

On Nov. 6, 1932, another, Shelia, was born. It became apparent at this time that the older children required more light, in more rooms, if they were to get their homework done. Since oil lamps gave poor light, and were extremely dangerous; Charlie turned to electricity. He bought an old 1½ horsepower, 2 flywheel, one cylinder, gas engine. He put it down in the cellar with the exhaust going into the chimney. It was clumsy and heavy, but it ran two 4-90 Chev. car generators with ease and produced power for our 6-volt lights for several years. It was noisy, however, so they decided to dig a basement at the front door and add a porch with a basement to house the new light plant, a 32-volt Peter Pan from McLeods. Batteries were expensive and the new plant needed 5-6 volt and 1-2 volt batteries. Charlie got information on rebuilding old batteries from a magazine and set to work to make one battery out of two. Most of the oxydation (deterioration of lead on battery plates) occurs on the + plates; the - plates show little or no deterioration. By taking 2 batteries of the same make and size, it was possible to remove the old oxidized + plates and replace them with the - plates from the other battery by cutting off one - plate from the group. There was always one less + plate than - in each cell. The wood separates were placed between the + and - plates and replaced in the box. New acid-water mix was added to the battery and the batteries were charged. Sometimes it was necessary to charge the battery backward to clean the plates and get them to work properly. They were then discharged and recharged in the correct way. These batteries gave service for up to three years after being rebuilt in this way. It was a messy job and when a new larger plant



was purchased; a large set of 32-volt plant batteries were also purchased.

Even though times were hard in the thirties, they did not lose any of the machinery bought in 1928, nor did they go hungry. The children were all healthy aside from measles, mumps, chickenpox, whooping cough, and the usual colds. Charlie and Ella had two more daughters; Sylvia, on May 5, 1936, and Shirley, on January 2, 1939.

Land was not readily available in the Pickardville district and Charlie wanted more land. He went with the tax collector to the Fawcett and Jarvie areas and looked at several pieces of land that were up for tax sale. He also looked at several pieces of land in the Lakeview, Chain, and Fifth Meridian school districts. Later he bought the S.W. ¼-13,64,1,W5 in the Fifth Meridian district near Fawcett for \$400.00. In December 1938, Frank Ragan asked him to buy the N.E. 12-64-1-W5, and a deal was made for their 1929 Nash car and some cash to a total of \$500.00. They farmed this land from Pickardville for a few years, moving machinery back and forth in the truck, or driving the tractor. Ella rode a horse home from Fawcett once and Harold and Ivan walked home one time. Since there was more land at Fawcett than at Pickardville, they sold the land at Pickardville. In the fall of 1945, they bought the N.W. 13-64-1-W5 and moved to Fawcett in April, 1946. Helen, Dorothy, and Alice were married by this time and so did not move to Fawcett with the family. Harold, who was serving overseas in World War II, came home to Fawcett later.

In the early Forties, a forest fire had burned over some of the land at Fawcett. The trees that were left lying on the ground were piled up and burned, leaving the land ready to plow. The summers of 1945 and 1946 were spent clearing and breaking some of this land.

Charlie always felt that by uniting their purchases, farmers could buy their inputs cheaper and he spent countless hours supporting all Co-op organizations and farm groups. He became a delegate and director of U.F.A. in the early forties. He was instrumental in getting the Alberta Wheat Pool to build the elevator in Fawcett and the Pembina U.F.A. Co-op Ltd, to build bulk oil agencies at Dapp, Jarvie, and Fawcett. He also helped set up a livestock co-op in Westlock, with Don Downing as agent, to sell livestock through the Alberta Livestock Co-operative in Edmonton. He owned shares in Canadian Co-operatives Implements Ltd., and remained a director of Pembina Co-op Ltd. until ill health forced him to resign. He was elected trustee of the Westlock Centralized School Board from this northern district and he held this position for many years, until illness forced his resignation.

Ella also got involved and she returned to teaching. She taught in the Fawcett Elementary School until Charlie's illness forced her to take a leave of absence to care for him. Charlie died in November 1957. Ella returned to her job and taught in Fawcett until her retirement. She continued to live on the farm until her death on January 17, 1982.

At this time: Helen, who married Aubrey Harry, is living in Edmonton. They raised a family of two girls; Linda and Judy.

Dorothy married Robert McLaughlin of Pickardville. They still live on their farm and they raised a family of four; Wayne, Dianne, Barbara, and Cynthia.

Harold married Ruth Lowe of Minburn. They are presently living at Olds. They have a son, Daryl, and a daughter, Donna.

Ivan married June Glebe in 1950 and they live on the N.E. ¼ 12-64-1-W5. Here they raised two sons, Sidney and Murray, and two daughters, Lois and Cheryl.

Alice married Albert Thompson and they had three boys and one girl; Ronald, Brian, Ross, and Shelly, Alice, now Mrs. Ray Williams, lives in Calgary.

Kathleen married Kenneth Ruxton and they went farming in the Thorntonville area near Fawcett. They raised two boys and a girl; Allen, Colin, and Kathryn. Kay and Ken still live on their farm.

Shelia married Ed Rogers and they had four daughters and one son; Debhobra, Laura, Sandra, Charlie, and Coralie. Shelia lives in Edmonton.

Sylvia married Walter Turlock and they live on an acreage near Stony Plain. They have one girl and three boys; Jaqueline, Gregory, Barry, and Jeffrey.

Shirley married Frank Pukanich from Chisholm and they are raising three children; Allison, their daughter, and two sons, Kenneth and Michael. They are living in Edmonton.

### **Alexander (Allie) Watt by Alvin Watt**

Allie (my Dad) was born in Ontario in 1895, the oldest son of J. I. Watt.

In 1914 he moved with the family to the Rossington district, to a farm his father had purchased.

After service in the first World War, he returned to the district and bought the North Half of 22-60-1-W5. He married Nellie Clark in 1920. There were four children from this marriage: Donald, of Saskatoon, Alvin, who lives in Kelowna, Margaret, residing in San Francisco, and Clark, who lives in California. Nellie died in 1929.

In 1931, Dad married Stella Kiziak who, with her son Johnnie (now of Calgary) had come to keep

house for him. Two children were born to Allie and Stella: Lillian, who had the misfortune to be killed in a car accident in 1975, and Charlie, who lives in Georgia with his wife and family.

Dad farmed until 1945, when he sold the farm and moved to Fawcett, where he purchased a general store and Massey-Harris Agency. He sold the store after one year, to a Co-op. that was formed, and Stella managed this for many years. Dad continued with the Massey-Harris agency until he retired to Westlock in 1969.

Dad helped to form the Pembina Heights School district and was a member of the School Board for many years.

After moving to Fawcett, he was elected to that school board, and when he retired he had spent fifty years on various school boards. He was very interested in young people and was very active in Church work, helping to form Sunday School classes and church groups wherever he lived. Dad passed away in March, 1976.

### James I. Watt Family by M. Miller Watt

In June, 1914, James Watt came to the Westlock area mainly because there were four sons in the family who would be able to take up homesteads. Being satisfied with the possibilities in the area, he bought the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  16-60-1-W5 from Mr. A. Geddes.

Mr. Watt Sr., our grandfather, took up for homestead the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  23-60-2-W5, and after he had proved it up he sold the quarter to Thor Nillson, an immediate neighbour. Alex (Allie) Watt filed on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  24-60-2-W5, and after proving it up he sold to John Bilo. A brother-in-law, R. W. Allan (Olive's husband) took up the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  24-60-2-W5, proved it up and sold this land in the early 1920's.

James Watt's family also came west in 1914. Besides Mrs. Watt and the grandfather, Alex Watt, there were ten children; Mrs. R. W. (Olive) Allan, Alex (Allie) Watt, M. Miller Watt, William Watt, Mary Watt, Laura Watt and James D. Watt. Of these, only Mrs. Mary (Tennant) McMartin of Osoyoos, B.C., William Watt and wife Gladys of Strathmore, Alberta and Miller Watt and his wife Kathleen of Penticton, B.C., survive.

After the First World War, Allie bought the N $\frac{1}{2}$  22-60-1-W5 and lived there until 1945, when he sold the land and took over the Massey-Harris machinery dealership in Fawcett. In 1966 he completed his business there and moved to Westlock where he and his wife, Stella, lived until his death in 1975.

Many people living along the Pembina River contributed to life in that area, and several of them,



50th Wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. J. I Watt, Dec. 9, 1941. Back row: Bill, Laura, Jim, Mary, Miller. Seated: Olive, J. I. Watt, Mrs. Watt, Allie.

later, had a considerable effect on the business life of Westlock.

Lorne Campbell, who homesteaded in that area north of a Pembina River oxbow, became the first agent for the first grain elevator that operated in Westlock. He was associated with the company for the rest of his working life, was a councillor for some years and, I think, Reeve for one term, at least. His work in the community was of much benefit.

A man who lived in the early days in the Riverdale area and was later a business man in Westlock was Wolsey Clarke. He and his brother, Art, had a saw mill just north of Rossington in the winter of



Mrs. J. Watt. 100th birthday, Aug. 8th, 1968. Sons Allie, Jim, William and Miller.



1914-15. They made lumber for many of the early settlers. They also had a steam driven threshing mill with which they threshed stacks of grain for many farmers. In 1916, Miller Watt, along with Clarence Hergot, cut bands on the sheaves as they were fed to the threshing mill, from early fall until almost Christmas time. Mr. Clarke later operated a restaurant in Westlock for quite a while and was a councillor at the same time as Archie Hollingshead, who was serving in the same capacity.

Another Pembina man who became a Westlock businessman was Harry Curlett, who homesteaded with his parents on SE¼ 21-60-1-W5. Harry took over the International Harvester Company agency in Westlock in about 1924. In 1926 he sold so many of the 15-30 McCormick-Deering tractors, that were excellent for breaking the land, that he had the largest volume of business for I.H.C. agents in Alberta, and was awarded a trip to Hawaii by the company. He was Mayor of Westlock for many years, completing his term of office in 1947, about the time that Westlock achieved Town status. Mr. Curlett was a very keen business man and perhaps was one of the richest men to come out of the Westlock area.

To return to the early days of homesteading — there was no radio or T.V., and no cars in those days, so the young people had to make their own amusement. In the winter we would fill a sleigh box with hay, hitch a team to it and pick up all the young people who wished to go to a friend's house for the dance, which would often last until daylight. We enjoyed skating on the Pembina River in the winter, and swimming there during the summer, when the water was warm.

We remember the enjoyable times, but the work of clearing up land for farming or road building was not so enjoyable. When we worked at making trails or roads with government authority, we were paid a dollar per man, per day and a dollar a day for a team of horses. These wages were applied to taxes on land, on which the tax was eight dollars a quarter-section. The mosquitoes, black flies and horse flies were very plentiful and bit most painfully, but we made some roads which were used for many years, before completely graded roads were made.

In those days our closest church was at Hazel Bluff, which was a little distant to attend regularly. William Clarke conducted Sunday School at Riverdale School and, when we were able to cross the Pembina River with horses, we went there. In 1919, after Allie and I got home from overseas service with the Canadian Army, our family bought (in perhaps 1920) our first car, a Chevrolet 490, from R. Wheatley who, after having obtained the Chevrolet Agency, had three cars brought in to Westlock. This car,

which cost under a thousand dollars, was surely welcomed by our family.

One of the first trips we made was to go to the Edmonton Fair in July. We could now go to church at Hazel Bluff, if the roads were passable! There were no gravelled roads at that time.

Anyone who lived in the Pembina River area from 1914 until the present, must have memories of the floods along the river. There was a flood in 1914 which made some of the roads impassable, but it was not nearly as high as the 1944 flood which appears to have been the highest flood in our time. My mother and father lived then in a house just north of the present Westlock-Barrhead highway, within about thirty feet of the east bank of the river. The flood waters, at their greatest height, were up to the bottom of a kitchen chair on the first floor of the house. Would the house be floated away by the force of the swirling waters? Fortunately, it was not, but there was considerable loss of furniture and clothing in the house, as well as fifty hives of bees which were swept away and lost. It took most of the summer to get the house in livable condition, because of the dirt and refuse brought in by the flood waters.

Ellison and Mary (nee Watt) Tennant were operating a country store just across the road from the James Watt home. At four o'clock in the morning they phoned to us in Westlock to arrange for a truck to come and remove as much store goods as possible to higher ground. There was a traffic ban on the roads at the time, but Crone Bros. sent a truck, and the R.C.M.P. were very co-operative in not being able to see the truck! The move was made; not much damage was done to the store.

My brother Jim, his wife Agnes (nee Gillies) and two children, lived in a house across the river in a lower level of land. The flood caught them by surprise as they woke up. Some neighbour was kind enough to rescue them by going in with a team of horses and wagon, but they lost all their household goods.

Many people along the river suffered heavy losses in animals, crop production and buildings. The damage must have run into untold millions of dollars.

There was another flood in 1948. It was caused by a break up of thick ice which jammed in certain places, holding the water back, but flooding was not as serious as in 1944. A later flood occurred in 1965.

In late summer of 1922, my father made a deal with Dios Smith, to rent his farm, which was immediately south-east of the village of Westlock. We bought their general delivery milk business in Westlock. This business involved the production of milk and the distribution of it to the three hundred or so

residents of Westlock, before noon every day. We supplied milk bottles and charged eight cents a quart in summer and ten cents a quart in winter. Cream was twenty-five cents per half pint. Some comparison with today's prices! My brother William and I were pretty well tied down with dairy work seven days a week but we found time to play baseball in summer and hockey in winter. I played goalie position on the Westlock team in the winter of 1931-32.

Our family continued with the dairy business until 1926, when my parents moved to Rossington to live. Brother Bill, who was with Lorne Campbell for a while, took over the Pool Elevator in Clyde for a few years before going to a town in southern Alberta with the same company.

Two interesting events happened in the early 1920's which affected the growth of Westlock and district. In November, 1923, a story of rumor, came to the area that gold had been discovered along the Pembina River in the Fawcett area. This was only twenty-five years or so after the Klondike Gold Rush and many people were interested in the search for gold. These, plus a considerable number of business people joined the "rush", some using cars, some on horseback. There was already 12 to 15 inches of snow on the ground and the temperature was about 20 degrees below zero (Fahr). It was a difficult trip; two or three men decided to return home by walking the railroad ties. They soon became very tired, discouraged and cold. Along came a freight train which stopped to pick them up, so they arrived back safely. These experiences showed that there were a number of people willing to take a chance on being a part of something which might turn out well.

In 1924, the United States Congress sent a commission to Western Canada to assess the advisability of making possible the shipment of more Canadian grain than was previously allowed into the U.S.A. Information meetings were held at many places in Western Canada, including Westlock. The report the group prepared eventually came back to Westlock. It indicated, on the basis of facts they had assembled, that the Westlock area was capable of raising wheat at a greater yield per acre and at a lower cost per bushel, than in any area of the West. The Westlock Chamber of Commerce, under the leadership of Farmer Steele, took advantage of this information and did considerable advertising of this fact, to the benefit of the district. People travelling by train could read, on one of the buildings near the station, the large sign which boosted Westlock in this way.

Over the years there has been a number of spectacular fires in Westlock. On May 22, 1926, a fire at the Imperial Oil warehouse was feared by many people on First Street, that it might spread to their

residences. There was very little fire fighting equipment at that time.

I believe that my father had a first in the area when, in 1923, we were living on the Smith farm, he got a couple of hives of bees, and watched them work that summer. The honey was of good quality and he was encouraged to continue keeping honey bees until the misfortune of the 1944 flood. To the best of our knowledge, these were the first honey bees to be tried in the area. The business is still extensive in a large district surrounding the town.

In their early years in Ontario, my mother and father had been regular attendants at the Presbyterian Church. When they moved to Westlock in 1922, they attended the Presbyterian Church where Rev. M. M. McLean was the minister. In 1925, Mr. and Mrs. Watt (my parents) went as delegates to the conference of Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches which brought the United Church of Canada into being. Mr. Watt was also superintendent of the Westlock Sunday School for a few years. He was succeeded by Mr. W. J. McCullough, with whom I worked as secretary of the church school for a time. In 1937 there were seventy-five students and teachers in the Sunday School. My father got great satisfaction from his work in the church.

After the 1944 flood, my parents went to Eastern Canada to visit relatives. When they returned, their Rossington home was still not fit to live in, so they went to Vancouver, where my sister, Olive, and her husband, Roy, lived. My parents lived there until my father's death on May 18, 1951.

Mother lived with various members of her family for a few years. After the Pembina Senior Citizens' Lodge opened in Westlock, she moved there for a few years, after which she went to the Auxiliary Hospital, where she spent the remainder of her life. The fact that our mother lived until she was one hundred and three years and one month old, is an indication that her life in these institutions must have been the best that could be given. All members of her family are extremely grateful to those who shared in caring for her.

My sister, Laura, had learned her telephone switchboard duties at the office in Westlock. She later worked in the Edmonton exchange. In 1939 she was directed to go to Jasper to take care of any switchboard operations which might be needed on the Royal Train carrying King George and Queen Elizabeth across Canada. She may not have had the chance to hear the King or Queen talk on the phone, but I expect she certainly had a good look at their Majesties, which is more than many of us who drove to Edmonton to see them were able to do.



## The Miller Watt Family

For a while I was in the trucking business, mostly hauling grain or lumber, until 1934, when we went to Stony Plain to work for a grain company. After that, we returned to Westlock, where I became a grain buyer for United Grain Growers for twenty one years.

From 1929 until about 1966, with the exception of one and a half years at Stony Plain, Miller and Kathleen Watt and family were the only Watts actually living in Westlock. Our family consisted of; Betty, (Mrs. S. Dixon) who died in 1961; Marjorie, (Mrs. Doug Barnes); Robert J.; George, married to Doranne (Ferris) and Kay (Mrs. Vern Schlender). All our children received their education in Westlock schools where we considered an excellent education was available. Four of our children, and seven grandchildren were born at the Immaculata Hospital. As



Miller and Kathleen Watt, retirement party, June, 1966.

well, we have had a number of surgical operations performed there. We feel a gratitude to the doctors, nurses and staff of the hospital generally, for our continuing good health. I learned much about the operation of the Hospital during the nine years I was on town council and the Hospital Advisory Board. The Immaculata Hospital is a considerable factor in the growth of Westlock.

The World War II years and the following years were very busy ones indeed for our family, as civic and club duties demanded much of our time.

I was president of the Canadian Legion, Westlock Branch #97, during 1941-42, according to my Past President's medal. Kathleen was very active in the Ladies Auxiliary in the late forties and early fifties, serving as president for a time.

About the end of World War II, many people were interested in having a few hives of bees to help supplement their sugar supplies. I accepted the posi-

tion of secretary of the Westlock Beekeepers Association. For a couple of years it was a heavy job. One year we imported 2300 packages of bees (mostly two pound size) for the two hundred or so people who were keeping bees. I handled the equipment for making hives, frames, smokers veils, etc. It was such a big job I had to give it up after that year.

For a couple of years I served as secretary of the Westlock Agricultural Society and I well remember the work Kathleen did in keeping account of fair entries. I would not have been able to do without her help.

I think it was in the 1950's that Kathleen was active in the Old Timers Association, sending out official greetings to the members of the association. I remember helping Dios Smith as best I could at times, as I enjoyed feeling I was an oldtimer. Kathleen actively supported the work of the Women's Association in the United Church.

In 1947 the village of Westlock was promoted to the status of a Town. The following people were elected to the Town Council; Mayor, D. C. Fender; Councillors: G. W. Clarke, A. Hollingshead, H. J. Doherty, J. P. Renaud, E. W. Stutchbury and M. Miller Watt.

At the end of the first two-year term, Mr. Fender could not be persuaded to run for the mayoralty again. I was persuaded to let my name stand for Mayor, and I was elected by acclamation, and was similarly returned for the next three terms.

As I look back over the nine years I was on council, it seems that the first four years are the most memorable because of the difficulties of the installation of sewer and water in the Town. Because money was limited, we had to depend on getting water from wells which we had drilled on Dr. Whissell's farm. These gave us water enough for a time, but there was sand in it, which made it difficult to pump for a long enough period of time. We had another well drilled just across from the fair grounds. We put a pump on this 250 foot well for a couple of days to test for quantity, but the pump brought up a stream of natural gas which burned a flame six to twelve inches in length almost continuously. We had to abandon that well. These problems, plus those of freezing water lines in winter, gave the council many headaches for the first couple of years. The town workmen spent many overtime hours, (without overtime pay) trying to keep the system running.

I do not remember exactly when, but during my term of office, a deal was made with a natural gas company to supply the town with natural gas for a period of ten years and to install the system. My recollection is that for residences, gas cost two dollars for the first two thousand cubic feet and fifty-

seven cents per thousand cubic feet for amounts beyond the first two thousand c.f.

A number of years later, it became possible, under provincial regulations, to borrow sufficient money to install a water system using water brought from the Pembina River. Necessary changes were made in the town water system so that it would operate more satisfactorily.

In the early 1950's, the Federal Government was encouraging the organization of Civil Defense in as many areas as possible. Mr. Ernie Wood was appointed as director in Westlock. Mrs. Anne Casey and Kathleen Watt went to Edmonton for instruction a number of times and also to Arnprior, Ontario, for courses of instruction, at federal expense. These were the times of the "Cold War", when tensions on the world scene were a real concern of the general public.

The first organized flying in the area was, I believe, started on the George Beach farm. About ten people were able to get their private pilots license in 1950. In 1951 another flying school was given on Dr. Whissell's farm, where a new flying field had been authorized. In that second school, about ten of us finally got our licenses. About fifteen flyers organized the Westlock Flying Club and purchased a Piper J 3 plane which got washed out. A couple of years later, another plane of the same type was bought; it was wrecked a few years later. Still another of the same make was purchased; it may still be in flying condition. All the people who flew at Westlock owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Whissell for keeping the field near Westlock, where it could be used most of the year. I had almost five hundred hours of flying in those machines; most often with someone for company. Once I took my thirteen year old nephew up with me. He immediately made up his mind that flying was going to be his life's work (or play). Immediately after graduation from high school, he joined the Canadian Flying Corps. Later he worked for United Airways in the U.S.A. and is still flying second pilot on the flight between Los Angeles and the East Coast.

On another little trip I took our granddaughter, who was going to school in Westlock, up around the lake east of Jarvie. Coming back, she unthinkingly put her head out the window and lost her glasses. Looking out I saw we were over the Hutterite farm where a flock of sheep was grazing. If the glasses fit properly, one of those sheep may have had better eyesight than before!

In 1966, at age 69, I retired from the U.G.G. after twenty one years of service. I was very appreciative of being allowed to work those extra years. Kathleen and I had been to the Okanagan area a couple of

times, and once in February, when the weather was very mild. We decided to retire somewhere in that area. In November of 1967, we moved to Penticton, which brings to an end the story of our life in Alberta from 1914 until 1967.

## **History of the Webb Family by Margart Webb**

I, (Margaret) and Robert were born in a small town in Northern Saskatchewan in the late 1930's, so we don't remember much about the hard times. We were married in Shellbrook, Sask., in 1960.

Previous to this, Robert worked at the Big River Saw Mill, and I took a hairdressing course in Saskatoon, and worked a short time in Prince Albert.

After our marriage, Robert took a hairstyling course in Regina, Sask. Carol was born in December, 1960. We then moved to Melville, Sask., where we operated a Barber and Beauty Salon for one year. Nadine was born in November of 1962.

Things were not going so well in Melville, so we moved to Esterhazy, Sask., "The Potash Capital of the World," which was an up and coming town. Bob started a Barber Salon in a Pool Hall and things were going well. In the following June, 1963, the Pool Hall burned down, causing a \$4,000 loss. In a week or so, with the help of a man called Redge Plumper, Bob opened up a Barber Salon in the back of the Community Hall, where he operated for about two years. In the meantime we had moved into a bigger house, and I operated a small salon where we had previously lived.

Sandra was born in January, 1964. About this time we moved our shop together, up on Main Street and it was called the "Community Barber and Beauty Salon." About this time we had a chance to buy our own home, so we did, and Robert Jr., was born there in January, 1965.

We operated this shop for approximately two years, but by this time the construction work at the Potash Mine was finished and a lot of the people moved out, so that left the town in quite a slump. We then rented our house and moved to a small town called Stockholme for one year, and operated a small Barber and Beauty Salon at home. About a year later some of the salons had moved out of Esterhazy, so we moved back into our own house. I operated a Beauty Salon in our own home and Bob operated a Barber Salon down town.

In June of 1969 we decided to move to Edmonton, Alberta. We were there eighteen months but decided we didn't like the city, and things were not going too well, anyway. We saw an advertisement in the Edmonton Journal of a Barber Salon for sale in Westlock, so we came out, had a look, and liked what we



saw. Consequently, we bought the Barber Salon in the Westlock Shopping Centre from Roland Provençal and started operation on January 1, 1970, naming the shop the "Golden Scissors Salon" which is still operating today.

We first lived three miles north of Westlock on the Noel farm. We were there for three and a half years, at the end of which time the acreage was sold. We then moved to three miles east of Clyde, to the Edward Hess place, and we lived there for three and a half years, until it was sold in 1976. We then bought our present acreage three miles east of Westlock, where the old Edison School used to be, back in the 1920's or 30's. We built a house there, into which we moved in November of 1976, and we are still living there today.

Around about this time the Westlock Shopping Centre had been sold to new owners, and the new part that exists today, had been built on to the original structure. In the meantime, the girls from the Town and Country Salon had moved over to the Co-op Shopping Centre, so we bought the old Town and Country Salon to get more space, as I had gone back into hairdressing. We were there for two years, then the Saan Store wanted more space, so the landlords built us a new salon where we are today.

During this time, our children were all going to school. Carol graduated in 1980, Nadine in 1981, Sandra in 1982, and Robert is taking his Grade XII this year (1983).

Carol took her hairdressing course at the Marvel School of Beauty in 1981-82. She started working in our own shop and enjoys her work very much. Nadine and Sandra also took their hairdressing at the Marvel School of Beauty, in 1982. At present the girls own and operate the Golden Scissors Salon with some help and encouragement from Mom and Dad.

### **The Joseph Weber Family History submitted by Stella Weber**

Joe and Julia Weber, with 3 small children Doreen, Norm, and Gloria, moved from Provost, Alberta in 1937 to the Westlock District. Joe emigrated from Austria alone, when he was in his early twenties.

Julia (Kloberdanz), was born in Buenos Aires, South America as her parents were enroute to Canada. Julia's parents settled in the Provost area and became farmers. Here she met Joe and they were married in 1931. They rented a farm and farmed with her parents. After several years of severe drought, they decided to leave Provost and settle elsewhere.

Upon arriving in Westlock, they rented a house 3 miles east and 1 mile north. This was known as the Edison District. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Zaczkowski lived

across the road and they became longtime friends. Doreen and Norman attended Edison School. Joe and Julia made hand-woven willow baskets, which were sold in the area or traded at the stores for groceries or merchandise. Their fourth child, Louise was born.

Approximately, five years later, they moved into Westlock and bought several acres of land including the Westgate home which they lived in. Here they raised pigs, chickens, horses and milk cows. Many girls who worked in town, boarded at the Weber home throughout the years.

Joe worked for awhile at the Hotel, later secured a job at the Westlock High School as a maintenance man. He retired from this job, after 21 years of service.

In 1953, they sold the Westgate home, which still stands today, and moved across the street. Joe passed away Oct. 1981, three weeks before their 50th wedding anniversary. All four children reside in Westlock: Mrs. Doreen (Gus) Rode has three daughters: Mrs. Mona (Don) Properzie, Mrs. Rhonda (Dale) Davis and Bonnie Lynn. Norm and Stella (Waryck) have four children: Kelly, Brad, Monica and Jason. Gloria Schmidt has five children: Calvin — and wife Brenda (Gorcak), Mrs. Debbie (Jake) Delaney, Mrs. Brenda (Ted) Szymanski, Craig and Wayne. Mrs. Louise (Doug) Durstling has two sons Robby and Rodney. Julia has 9 great-grandchildren.

### **Grandparents: Ivan and Anne Weleschuk (Nee Luchkow) and John and Frances Kaschyshyn (Nee Budney) (1897)**

**Written by Paul and Jennie Weleschuk**

Emigrated to Canada, from the Province of Galicia, the Western Ukraine, which was at that time part of one Austro-Hungarian Empire. The two families were, my Grandparents Ivan and Anne Weleschuk, and also John and Frances Kaschyshyn, with their families left their homeland. From Port Hamburg, Germany, they sailed on board the ship S.S. Scotia, and landed at Halifax on April 30, 1897. By train they arrived at Strathcona, then in the North West Territories, now Alberta.

They settled fifty miles north-east from Strathcona, (then Edna area) not far from the Old Wostok Town site. Grandparents Ivan and Anne Weleschuk and their six children homesteaded on the SE ¼-12-56-18-W4. In the wilderness of the North West Territories in their new homeland, to them two sons were born.

Five miles to the West of Ivan Weleschuk's homestead, John and Frances Kaschyshyn and their four children homesteaded the NW ¼-16-56-18-W4. While homesteading, four more children were born



Theodore and Rosalia Weleschuk (nee Kaschyshyn) emigrated with their parents to Canada in 1897. Their ages Theodore 14 and Rosalia 6.



Ivan and Anne Weleschuk emigrated to Canada in 1897, then the Edna area, filed on homestead May 19, 1897.

to them in the North West Territories and Alberta. They commenced their contribution to the development of the North West Territories and Alberta.

Being a tradesman in his country, Ivan Weleschuk brought to Canada, the new homeland, his carpenter's and blacksmith tools. By him all the blacksmith tools and anvil were hand-made when he took trades training as a young lad in Europe. The bellow was probably purchased, as he was setting up the blacksmith shop in the village to make garden tools, plows, harrows, grubhoes, axes, and also sharpened them.

When he settled on the homestead, the blacksmith shop was set-up, and for the homesteaders, he sharpened plow shares, colters, grubhoes, axes, as well as welded broken shafts, points on shares, and colters. The homesteaders kept him busy during spring and summer.

My parents, on coming to Canada their ages were Theodore (14), and Rosalia (16). They were great help to their parents as they built sod covered houses, cleared land of brush, and shelter for cows and horses. Both families worked hard from dawn till dusk. They did make every effort to overcome the hardships and did prosper.

Being in Canada for over a year, my father, Theodore, filed on the homestead the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ -6-56-17, on Aug. 1, 1898. As he helped his parents to open more land to cultivation, he also did improvements on his homestead. He obtained the title to his homestead on June 29, 1906.

My parents, Theodore and Rosalia Weleschuk (née Kaschyshyn) were married on June 15, 1908, and stayed with his parents for over a year. In the fall of 1909, they moved to their homestead, where they began farming on their own. For a start, his father gave him two horses, a colt, wagon, walking plow, and three harrows.

Mother's dowry, was two cows, a small hand made gristmill (quern), and the wooden mixing bowls to knead dough for bread. They considered themselves fortunate, having the two room house, and ten acres under cultivation. By hand, father spread the seeds and then harrowed the field.

On Aug. 16, 1911 my father, Theodore, was granted, second class certificate of qualification for Traction Boiler only as engineer, authorized him to operate steam boiler and engine not exceeding 35 H.P.

About 1900, grandpa constructed on his homestead a grist mill of two large stones chiselled and fitted to grind, and a small agitating hopper suspended above, was operated by two horses on a stationary power, with rope belt turning the stone to grind flour.



Grandpa in 1903 purchased thresher and a sweep that was powered by horses. Then in 1908 he purchased the steam threshing outfit. Later on the sawmill was purchased. The steamer was used to thresh, saw lumber, and squared building logs, and the grist mill to grind flour.

I (Paul) the second son of Theodore and Rosalia Weleschuk was born Nov. 1, 1911 on the homestead. Maria Nemirsky was the midwife at the time of my birth. My parents raised a family of nine children John, I (Paul), Frances, Mike (deceased), Carl (deceased), Joseph, Peter (Rev. Damien), Steve, and Nick. Their children attended Wostok Public School and had to walk three and a half miles to and from school.

Many days father spent, operating the engine to grind flour or feed for the stock for the homesteaders. During the first world war, with his parents help, father purchased the CPR land the NW ¼-5-56-17-W4, and did about twenty acres of breaking with the help of the hired men in 1917. In 1918 on July 7 the wheat crop was killed by a heavy frost, then in 1919, insufficient rain-fall the crops were light. The winter came in mid-October 1919 which lasted till mid-May, 1920, and feed shortage occurred and many cattle died.

Father had very serious surgery and was hospitalized in 1921, for six weeks. He was restricted by the doctor from farm work, for a whole year. While he was slowly recovering from surgery, for one year, he kept a hired man to operate the farm. The hospital bills, the surgery, and keeping the hired man, the finances dwindled. Not yet fully recovered, he made other arrangements to farm the land. Father purchased a sulky plow for \$85. dollars. He, then asked the teacher's permission to keep the sons John and Paul from school to help put the crop in. During spring and harvest the boys missed school. The two of us had to stook grain, haul bundles during threshing, and worked ten hours a day. In those days, the horses were used to power the machinery.

During the depression, in the fall of 1932 we filed on the homestead, in the Goodridge area. From 1933 to 1935 each summer we went to do improvements on the homesteads. But poor greywooded rocky soil with lots of heavy-bushes did change the plans.

With father's help, in 1936 brother John and I began our farming career when we rented half a section of land from John Puhach, a Wostok business man, and for two years we farmed there.

Then before spring 1938 John and I purchased in partnership from A. Matheson the NE ¼-29-58-18-W4, and the SW ¼-33-58-18-W4, in Warspite area. And we farmed in that area, four years.

As we farmed at Warspite, I met a charming girl



Picture taken in 1974. L to R: Gezelia Motowylo (Weleschuk), Frederick Weleschuk, Jennie Weleschuk (Potulicki), Paul Weleschuk, and Marie Weleschuk.

Jennie Potulicki. Jennie and I were married at Warspite on Feb. 4, 1940, and farmed with John.

In Warspite area, during the wee hours on Sept. 8, 1941 we welcomed the birth of our daughter Gezelia (Gay) at home. There was no phone in the area close by. So I had to act as a midwife. Then later that morning, Jennie's mother gave a first bath for her granddaughter. I, then called Dr. Holubitsky at Radway to come and check if everything was fine with my wife Jennie and the baby.

In spring 1942 brother, John and I terminated our partnership agreement. The move was prearranged, and in mid-April, we moved our possessions by CNR box car to Therien, from there, teams and wagons moved the possessions. The calves and the sow with the piglets had a ride in the wagon box, the cows and horses walked the ten miles to the farm at Maloy. Jennie and the baby took the passenger train also to Therien. They stayed at John Klatchuk's place. When the house was ready for occupancy, the next day I brought them to our new home.

We then rented three quarter of land from Westland Meyers with an option to buy the SE ¼-13-62-9-W4, where our home was established. Both worked hard from dawn till dusk to over-come our financial set-back when we moved from Warspite. Three years

later, we purchased the SE ¼-13-for fifteen hundred dollars. Then wife's brother Victor and I did brush and broke twenty acres of new land with five horses and breaker during the summer. The following spring I hired the brush-cutter, and they did about seventy acres of brush. Then, a couple years later the second quarter of land was purchased for hay and the pasture.

As we were farming at Maloy, on a very cold December 11th, 1946, Marie was born at home, assisted by a district nurse, Barbara Taylor. For a few days she came to see how mother and daughter were doing.

Fredrick was also born at home on July 25, 1948, I again had to act as a midwife. When our friends, Klatchuk's came, then with his car, went to Glendon and brought the midwife to check if everything was fine with mother and the baby boy. She was taken back to town.

At Maloy public school, Gezelia began her education in 1948. Afterwards, when the schools were centralized, the students from Maloy area were bused to Glendon Public School.

In the fall of 1948 a tractor and four bottom plow were purchased. With it, breaking was done for some of the homesteaders, and for ourselves, with the twenty-two-inch Massey-Harris brush-breaker.

After ten years of farming at Maloy, we sold our land in 1951. Then in Feb. 1952, purchased from John Yurkiw the north half of sec. 10-55-18. Luciak Bro's transported our possessions from Maloy, the last half of March and first week of April to the farms at Chipman. When we moved, our children were Gezelia, Marie, and Fredrick. They attended the Lamont Centralized School. From Lamont High School Gezelia graduated in 1961. She then worked in Edmonton until her marriage.

In June, 1962 Gezelia married Edward Motowylo from Two Hill, who, then managed the Two Hills Co-op Assn Ltd., gas bulk sales, and also farmed a section of land in the area.

Early snow falls, hail, and drought reduced the crop yield. To compensate the loss, Jennie had to seek for a job. She acquired one at the Lamont Archer Memorial Hospital in April, 1964, and was employed there for several years.

In Sept. 1964 Fredrick discontinued his grade nine education. Then, we made a change over from horses to mechanized farming. He had to help with field work, cutting and baling hay, combining, milking cows by hand, and fed pigs, this kept both of us busy.

While we farmed at Chipman our daughter Gezelia and Edward Motowylo sold their land at Two Hills. He resigned his job, the fall of 1962 and moved

to Linaria, Dapp area, and are farming presently there. Their children are Allan, Cynthia, and Harvey.

In Feb. 1966 Fredrick enrolled at the Moler Barber's College in Edmonton. After six months of training, passed his test, and received the **diploma**, the certification to enter the Barber's Profession. Fredrick acquired a job in 1967 at **Pro's Barber Shop**, and was employed there until Roland Provençal sold the barber shop.

After Marie graduated from Lamont High School in 1967, she helped on the farm to harvest the crop, and to haul bales. In Dec. 1967 she went to Edmonton. Marie acquired a job at the University Hospital in Jan. 1968 and was employed for about fourteen years. Lately she enrolled in the word processor's course, and resides in Edmonton.

When our children were supporting themselves, Jennie and I decided, we would move into town where I could get a semi-retirement job. So we sold our farms at Chipman in 1967. Then on April 13 1968 we sold by farm auction sale miscellaneous, machinery, feed oats, cows and calves.

From April 27 1968, I stayed at our daughter Gezelia and Edward Motowylo place at Linaria, for a short time. Used their vehicle to work at Tosto's Restaurant; and began my part-time job on April 28 1968 which I had acquired two weeks earlier, through our friends, who were residing in Westlock.

As I worked at Tosto's restaurant, a few weeks later, I purchased the house in town through the Real Estate agent, Barry Muller. Jennie was still working at Lamont when the House was purchased in Westlock. On her day off, she hired Mayowski's Transport and he moved our possessions to our home in town. After we settled in town, the daily routine from and to the farm ended.

For a start, Jennie began her waitress duty at Tosto's Restaurant. Then, after hours I did the custodial duty. About five months later Ald. Lefebvre hired me to do part-time jobs. Afterwards I applied at the Westlock School Division for the janitor's job. As the winter approached, then realizing that I would not be able to take-care of both places, I resigned the job at the restaurant, thus kept the job at the Separate School, and worked there until Aug. 26/69.

When I was off duty at the Separate School, then I was hired by the foreman Sarden Seminiuk of the Westlock School Division, and began the janitor's duty on Aug. 28 1969 at the Westlock Sr. High School, helping with summer cleaning. Before the classes resumed for 1969-70 school year, the areas in schools were divided by seniority.

Bill Lievers and I had no other choice but to take the New Jr. High School. And we helped the teachers



from the Jr. High to move the equipment from the old Jr. High School to the New Jr. High. It was a rainy summer and the parking area was full of water. Gravel and mud were churning when backing the truck to the curbing to unload the equipment.

Then for seven years in the Junior High School, Bill Lievers and I did the janitorial duty in partnership until my retirement on Dec. 31, 1976.

Jennie applied for the part-time janitor's job at the Westlock School Division and was hired to fill-in for the sick janitors or for those who have taken their holidays, at different times of the school year. She was employed there for several years.

Fredrick was unemployed for a short while after the barber shop was sold. Later on he moved to Edmonton, and worked on various jobs. He then enrolled at the College, up-graded his education, and now, is employed by the Alberta Government Telephones. He married Marie Hanas, and they have an eight months old son Aaran. They reside in Camrose.

Now, Jennie and I are enjoying our retirement. Once in a while we travel to B.C. visiting our relatives. We are residing in the town of Westlock.

### **Fred Weleschuk**

I was born in Malloy, Alberta, on July 25, 1948, the youngest of Paul and Jennie Weleschuk's children. As my parents moved to another farm in Chipman, I attended the Chipman and Lamont schools to receive my formal education.

In December, 1965, I went to Edmonton and after graduation from the Mohler Barber College, worked in Edmonton until June of 1967 when I moved to Westlock to work for Roland Provencal at Pro's Barber Shop.

In 1971 I went back to Edmonton to work as a drywaller (Interior Systems Mechanic) till 1976 when I returned to Alberta College. In May, 1977, I went to work for Alberta Government Telephones as a Communications Electrician in Camrose.

On June 18, 1977, I was married to Maria Honas who was born and raised in Edmonton. We then moved to Camrose where we now reside.

We have one son, Aaron Michael, who was born on June 29, 1982.

### **Weleschuk Theodore and Rosalia (nee Kaschyshyn) by Paul Weleschuk**

Emigrated to Canada, from the Province of Galicia, the Western Ukraine, which was at that time under Austro-Hungarian Empire. The two families were Ivan Weleschuk and John Kaschyshyn left their homeland. From port Hamburg Germany, sailed on board the ship S.S. Scotia, landed at Halifax on April

30, 1897. By train arrived at Strathcona, then North West Territories, now Alberta.

My Grandparents settled fifty miles east of Strathcona, then Edna area. Not far from the old Wostok Town site. Ivan Weleschuk his wife Anna and their six children homesteaded the SE¼ 12-56-18-W4. In the wilderness of the North West Territories to them two sons were born.

Not far from there, John Kaschyshyn his wife Frances and their four children homesteaded the NW¼ 16-56-18-W4. While homesteading, four more children were born to them in the North West Territories and Alberta. They commenced their contribution to the development of the North West Territories.



Maria and Fred Weleschuk and son Aaron Michael.

On coming to Canada, my father Theodore age (14), and my mother Rosalia age (6). They were a great help to their parents while improving the homesteads. All worked from dawn till dusk and prospered.

Being in Canada for about a year, my father Theodore filed on the homestead the NE¼ 6-56-17, on Aug. 1 1898. While he helped his parents to farm, he also did improvements on his homestead. He obtained the title to his homestead, June 29, 1906.

My parents Theodore and Rosalia Weleschuk (nee Kaschyshyn) were married on June 15, 1908, and stayed with his parents for over a year. In the fall of 1909, moved to their homestead where they began to farm on their own. For a start, his father gave two horses, a colt, wagon, walking plow, and harrows.

Mother's dowry was two cows, a hand made small gristmill (quern) and wooden mixing bowls to knead dough for bread. They considered themselves fortunate to have all this, and ten acres of cultivated land and two room house.

On Aug. 16, 1911 Theodore Weleschuk was granted a second class certificate of qualification for Traction Boiler only as engineer, authorized him to operate steam boiler and engine not exceeding 35 H.P.

Grandpa, had made on his homestead a gristmill of two large flat stones, and was operated by two horses on a stationery power, with rope belting turning the stones, and a small agitating hopper suspended above, making flour for the homesteaders.

Then grandpa, purchased a steam engine and the thresher in 1908. Then the steamer was used for threshing, sawing lumber, and square building logs. Also the steam engine was used to power the gristmill turning the large stone with rope belting making flour for the homesteaders in the area, they didn't have to travel thirty miles with a load of wheat to Fort Saskatchewan.

I (Paul) the second son of Theodore and Rosalia Weleschuk was born Nov. 1, 1911 on the homestead. Maria Nemirsky was the midwife at the time of my birth. They raised a family of nine John, Paul, Frances, Mike (D), Carl (D), Joseph, Peter (Rev. Damien), Steve, and Nick. During the first world war, with the help of his parents father purchased the CPR land the NW¼ 5-56-17, and did about twenty acres of breaking with the help of hired men.

Father had very serious surgery and was hospitalized in 1921 for six weeks. For a whole year, he was restricted by a Doctor from farm work. While he was recovering from surgery, he kept for one year a hired man to operate the farm. The hospital bills, surgery, and keeping a hired man, the finances dwindled. Not fully recovered he made other arrangements to farm the land. Father purchased the sulky plow for \$85 dollars. Then he asked the teacher's permission to keep the sons John and Paul from school to help put the crop in. During harvest the boys missed school, had to stook grain, haul bundles during threshing, had to work ten hours a day. In those days the horses were used to power the machinery.

During the depression, in the fall of 1932 we filed on the homesteads in Goodridge area. From 1933 to 1935 each summer we went to do improvements on the homesteads. But poor greywooded rocky soils with lots of heavy-bush did change the plans.

With father's help in 1936 John and I began our farming career in partnership when we rented half a section of land from John Puhach a Wostok business man, and for two years we farmed there.

Then before spring 1938 John and I purchased from Mr. Matheson the NE¼ 29-58-18, and SW¼ 33-58-18, in Warspite area. We farmed there four years in partnership.

As we farmed at Warspite, I met a charming girl

Jennie Potulicki. Jennie and I were married on Feb. 4, 1940, and farmed with John.

In Warspite area, during the wee hours on Sept. 8, 1941 we welcomed the birth of our daughter Gezelia (Gay) at home. There was no Phone in the area close by. So I had to act as a midwife. Then later that morning, Jennie's mother gave a first bath for her granddaughter. I called Doc. Holubitsky at Radway to come and check if everything was fine with Jennie and the baby.

In spring 1942 John and I terminated our partnership agreement. The move was prearranged, and in mid-April, moved our possessions by CNR box car to Therien, from there by teams and wagons moved the possessions to the farm at Maloy; Jennie with the baby took the passenger train also to Therien, and stayed at John Klatchuk's place. When the house was ready for occupancy, then the next day I brought them to our new home.

We then rented three quarter of land from Westland Meyers with an option to buy the SE¼ 13-62-9, where our home was established. Both of us worked hard from dawn till dusk to over-come our financial setback when we moved from Warspite. Three years later, purchased the SE 13 for fifteen hundred dollars, then wife's brother Victor and I did brushing and broke twenty acres of new land with five horses and breaker during the summer. The following spring I hired the brush-cutter and they did about seventy acres of bush. Then, a couple years later the second quarter of land was purchased for hay and for the pasture.

As we were farming at Maloy, on a very cold December 11th, 1946, Marie was born at home, assisted by a district nurse, Barbara Taylor. She came for a few days to see how mother and daughter were doing.

Fredrick was also born at home on July 25, 1948. I acted as a midwife. Our friends Klatchuk's came, then with his car, went to Glendon brought the midwife to check if everything was fine with mother and the baby boy. She was taken back to town that day.

At Maloy public school, Gezelia began her education in 1948. Afterwards, when the schools were centralized, the students from Maloy area were bused to Glendon Public School.

In the fall of 1948 a tractor and four bottom plow was purchased. With it, breaking was done for some of the farmers, and for ourselves, with the twenty two ins Massey-Harris breaker.

After ten years of farming at Maloy, we sold our land in 1951. Then in Feb. 1952, purchased from John Yurkiw the half of 10-55-18-W4 M. Luciak Bro's transported from Maloy our possessions, the last half of March and first week of April to the farms



at Chipman. When we moved, our children were Gezelia, Marie, and Fredrick. They attended the Lamont centralized school. From Lamont High School Gezelia graduated in 1961. She then worked in Edmonton until her marriage.

In June 1962 Gezelia married Edward Motowylo from Two Hills. He then managed the Two Hills Co-op Assn Ltd., gas bulk sales, and also farmed in the area.

Early snow falls, hail, and drought reduced the crop yield. To compensate the loss, Jennie had to seek for a job. She acquired a job at the Lamont Archer Memorial Hospital in April 1964. And was employed there for several years. In Sept. 1964 Fredrick discontinued his grade nine education. We, then made a change-over from horses to mechanized farming. He had to help with field work, cutting and baling hay, combining, milking cows, and fed pigs, this kept both of us busy.

While we farmed at Chipman our daughter Gazelia and Edward Motowylo sold their land at Two Hills and in 1965 moved to Linaria Dapp area and are farming there. Their children are Allan, Cynthia, and Harvey.

In Feb. 1966 Fredrick enrolled at the Moler Barber's College, and six months of training, passed his test, received the Diploma, a certification to enter the Barber's Profession. Fredrick acquired a job in 1967 at Pro's Barber Shop, and was employed there until Provencal sold the barber shop.

After Marie graduated from Lamont High School in 1967, she helped on the farm to harvest the crop, and haul bales. She went to Edmonton in Dec. 1967. Acquired a job at the University Hospital in Jan. 1968, and was employed for about fourteen years. She is single and resides in Edmonton.

When our children went on their own, Jennie and I decided to move to town where I could get a semi-retirement job. Sold our farms at Chipman in 1967. On April 13, 1968 by auction sale, we sold machinery, feed grain, and cows.

Then on April 27, 1968 came to stay at our daughter Gezelia and Edward Motowylo place at Linaria, and used their vehicle to drive to work at TosTos Restaurant. A part-time janitorial job I acquired two weeks earlier, through a well-known friends, who resided in Westlock.

As I worked at TosTos restaurant, a few weeks later, purchased a house in town through Real Estate Agent Barry Muller. Once we had a house in Westlock, then Jennie hired Mayowski's Transport, and he moved our personal possessions to our new home in town.

Jennie worked as a waitress in the restaurant, and after hours I did the custodial work. For a start we

both worked for TosTo. Five months later I was hired by Ald. Lefebvre, to do a part-time janitor's duty at Separate School. Then shortly after I applied at the Westlock School Division for janitorial job. The working hours were unfavorable, so I gave up the job at the restaurant thus keeping the job at the Separate School until August 26, 1969.

I was hired by the foreman, Sarden Seminiuk of the Westlock School Division. Began the janitorial duty on Aug. 28, 1969 at the Westlock Sr. High School, helping with summer cleaning. Then the school areas, were divided by seniority. Bill Lievers and I, have taken the new Jr. High School. We helped the teachers from the Junior Hi. to move the equipment from the Old Jr. Hi. School to the New One. The summer was wet and the parking area was churning with mud when backing the truck to the curbing to unload.

Then in the New Junior High School, Bill Lievers and I performed in partnership the janitorial duty until my retirement on Dec. 31/76.

Jennie applied for the janitor's job at Westlock School Division and was hired to fil-in for the sick janitors or for those who have taken their holidays, at different times of the school year. She was employed there for about four years.

After Provencal had sold the barber shop, Fredrick was unemployed for a while. Later on he moved to Edmonton, worked on various jobs. He, then enrolled at the College, up-graded his education, and now, is employed by the Alberta Government Telephones. He married Marie Hanas, and they have a boy Aaran eight months old. They reside in Camrose.

Jennie and I reside in Westlock, and are enjoying our retirement. Once in a while we travel to B.C. visiting our relatives.

## **Wendland, Robert and Hilda**

Robert Wendland landed at Halifax in 1928 and immediately traveled west until he arrived at Edmonton where he obtained employment on a dairy farm in the Millet area. After working on farms in the area, where he learned the English language, Robert found employment in Edmonton as a carpenter. In 1935 he married Hilda Ertman who had arrived in Canada at Hull, Quebec, in 1926 at the age of 14. Hilda had come west to live with relatives in the Millet area. The young couple met in Edmonton where Hilda, too, was employed. In 1941 Robert and Hilda moved to a farm in the Dapp area with their baby daughter, Shirley (Mrs. Ben Meyer of Wetaskiwin). Even though they had lived in the city for many years their European farm background helped them build up a successful farm. In 1943 another daughter, Lilley



Robert and Hilda Wendland, with Lilly and Shirley.

(Mrs. William Glebe of Pickardville), was born. When their eldest daughter became of school age Robert decided the family should look for a farm close to a school, so in the spring of 1945 he moved his family to a farm four miles south of Westlock where Wood Glen School was close by and his children could receive an education which he and his wife felt was very important. The new farm had only 80 acres broken and Robert set to work breaking more land and building up the farm. He also found time to work as a carpenter travelling by horse and buggy to Westlock to work, and around his neighbourhood to build many farm homes. Hilda and Robert were members of the Lutheran Church and when it was decided to build a new church Robert spent much of his time that summer as the building foreman coordinating the many volunteer workers who donated their time and energy to build a new church for their community.

When Robert died in August 1966 Hilda sold the family farm and moved to Westlock where she lived in her home until 1978. Failing health forced her to retire to Pembina Lodge where she passed away in July 1980.

## Harry West Family

by Tessie Berry

Harry West was born in 1854 in Ontario in an old country French Canadian Settlement. He worked with his father and there obtained his locomotive engineering papers. He moved to Colorado, U.S.A.,

working there until he got his engineering papers in the United States. He was an outrider for the stages from Cheyenne to Rapid City. From there he moved to Buster, South Dakota, where he met his future wife, Nevada Higgenbotham. In 1888 he homesteaded in Nebraska. In 1890 he moved onto another homestead with his wife. They had four children, Tessie, Vesta, Sylvia and Goldie. He had another daughter Annie by a previous marriage.

In 1902, the family came to Billings, Montana by covered wagon and remained there until July 1903. Father then decided to return to Canada and on July 22nd they started for the Peace River country. I rode horseback to Edmonton herding 20 head of horses. We landed in Edmonton Sept. 13th, 1903.

With a group of land seekers, father went to look for land in the Little Grand Prairie area, now called Westlock. He liked the district and bought a quarter of land.

From Montana there were nineteen wagons starting north, only father, George Weisel and Frank Ryan arrived in Edmonton.

One place we camped was at Red Deer. Father went to see if he could buy some milk and was told he could have all he needed if he helped with the milking, and at night he was given a big pail of skim milk. Next morning he again helped with the milking but, this time he brought home whole milk.

My sisters and myself picked raspberries along the Red Deer River; a strange man came along and took our berries and pails and said we could not have them because they were picked on a Sunday. (Of course it was alright for him to have them!)

Leaving Red Deer, a few days later near Leduc, my saddle horse fell into a sink hole while at pasture, only his head was visible. It took gallons of water from the Big Stone Creek to wash the mud from Button, my pony.

We landed in Edmonton Sept. 13, 1903 and camped on Rat Creek which is now 95th and 110th Ave which then was out in the country. We kept our horses in Harvie's cattle pasture. Leaving Edmonton via the Landing Trail we landed in Little Grand Prairie on Sept. 27th, 1903. We lived in a tent until Nov. 9th, moving into a log house at that time. We had never seen snow so we girls really enjoyed the winter season.

The first teacher was Donald MacGregor who taught school three days a week in a tent provided by father.

The Edison School was built in the Spring of 1905, the teacher then was Mr. Beatt who also taught three days a week.

I attended school until mother passed away in 1908, I kept house for father until I married Emmett



Berry November 25th, 1909. Father moved to Rose Lake, B.C. in 1919, there Annie passed away in 1921 and father in 1923. Leslie born in 1905 still resides in Hazelton, B.C. Leslie and I are the only remaining ones of the Harry West family.

### **Fred Westgate Family by Ada (Westgate) Urwin**

My grandfather, William Westgate, was born March 10, 1853, at Lakefield, Quebec. He married my grandmother, Esther Moore in 1879 in Mille Isles, Quebec.

They had six children, and around 1903 they moved to Westlock.

William died June 15, 1918 and Esther died in August, 1927. Both are buried in Hazel Bluff cemetery.

My father, Frederick (Fred) and sister Elizabeth (Lizzie Beatt) and brother Rudolph, came west to Westlock with their parents. Fred married Leah Boughton, my mother, January 1, 1919. They had four children; **Louis Westgate**, born October 16, 1919, twins **Alan and Ada** were born September 10, 1922, and **Grant** was born January 10, 1927.

The town of Westlock was named after my grandfather and a Mr. Lockhart, both early pioneer farmers.

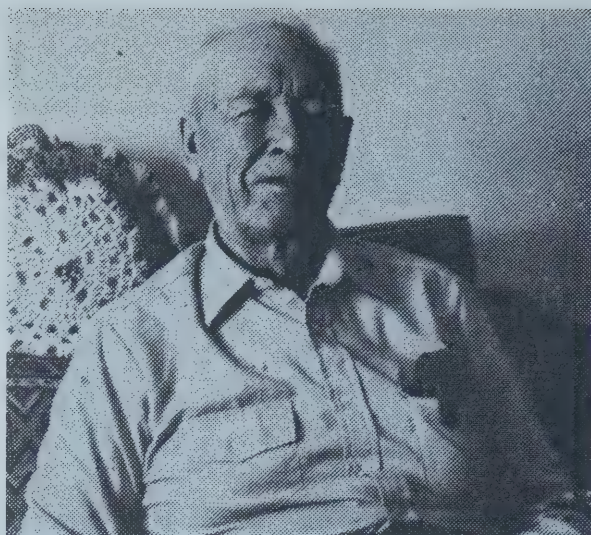
The Fred Westgates lived in the original house, I believe, until February 1941.

Our house was later moved and was used as the first Church of England (Anglican Church) in my grandparents days.

### **Ray and Ida Wharton as written by Sylvia Leigh from The Hub of March 10, 1981**

Mr. Ray Wharton was born in 1891 in Seymour, Iowa. At age 20 he moved to Los Angeles and worked for the winter at Fairbanks-Morris, a manufacturer of machinery and oil well casings. This was at the time oil was discovered near Fresno, California. In 1912, Ray, along with a friend and his brother and wife, decided to travel north — they rigged up a covered wagon and headed for Alberta. However, since the ride was very uncomfortable and very slow (25 miles per day), Ray got off at Oregon and worked the harvest, helping to run an old fashioned horse combine which required 33 horses.

After the harvest, Ray took the train to southern Alberta, where he saw the first Calgary Stampede, attended by Canada's Governor General, the Duke of Connaught, whose daughter, Patricia, was later to give her name to Canada's famous "Princess Pat" regiment.



Ray Wharton, 90th birthday.

In 1913 Ray arrived in the Shoal Creek area to homestead. His quarter was heavily timbered with spruce, and a sawmill was set up to process the wood. He had some land cleared before the First World War began, and then he joined up to go overseas.

Ray spent three years in France and Belgium, as a member of the 78th Battery out of Calgary. When he arrived back at Shoal Creek after the war, he was dismayed to discover that his land was once more overgrown with scrub and trees, so the clearing process began again.

In 1919 Ray went home to Iowa for Christmas, one of several journeys he made to visit his family. During his travels he once stopped in Claresholm to cut grain for a local rancher, and there he met his future wife, Ida. They were married on January 28, 1920 and recently celebrated their 61st anniversary. Ray and his bride took the train to Clyde, and Marshall's stage the rest of the way to Shoal Creek. There, with the help of a neighbor's team of oxen, some horses' and a good deal of labour with an axe, Mr. Wharton cleared enough land to get his patent in 1921, and eventually 200 acres in total. During this time he sold half a million feet of lumber to Beaver Lumber.

Between 1940 and 1942 the Alaska Highway was being built, and Ray helped to construct it by hauling construction materials on the highway. After the second World War, Ray bought another truck and hauled back and forth to Edmonton.

Mr. Wharton is a founding member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, and was for several years chairman of his local U.F.A. He is also a member of the original council of the M.D. of Shoal Creek, and a member of the Barrhead Legion.

Ray is one of five children, and his youngest sister still lives in Los Angeles. Ray and Ida Wharton have six children. The couple have nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Ray and Ida moved into Parkview Place in Westlock two years ago, and seem to enjoy it very much. Ray still drives and they go out for drives every day. Ray says he doesn't know of any secret to long life, but he admits that his good health is probably due to lots of hard work and "plain living".

Mr. Wharton's sense of humour and enthusiastic approach to life lead one to believe that although he celebrates his 90th birthday this week, he is still "very young at heart"!

## Robert Wheatley by daughter Emogene Guest

After homesteading at Hazel Bluff for seven years, my Dad, Robert Wheatley, had had enough of it and moved to the new hamlet of Westlock, when the E.D. & B.C. railroad cut through our country from Edmonton. A lovely home was built for us, which was one of only seven dwellings in Westlock at the time. This was in 1913 and the house still stands near the old Anglican Church, in 1982!

Dad had a Livery Barn near the station and later, a "jitney" (Ford car) to transport passengers to and from the railroad at Clyde, where he had used team and democrat before.



George and Emogene Guest in front seat. Clarence Hergott and Christie Beigler in back seat. Wheatley home in the background.

During World War I, I did my bit doing some of this driving and also taking the Doctor out on country calls over some very questionable roads, at the same time continuing my piano lessons in Edmonton, taking part in Alberta College concerts (where I boarded three years) and playing for the Edmonton Women's Music Club in the MacDonald Hotel, and sometimes singing a solo in one of the big churches on the south side. I had many pupils for many years, both before

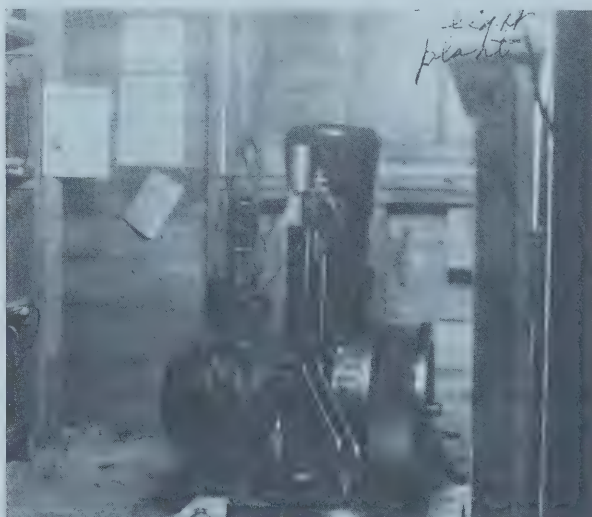
and after I was married, as well as playing the organ in church.

In my Dad's home a small "Delco" engine was installed to generate electricity for lights, and later, when he built the brick garage on Main Street, where Renaud's Hardware now is, a big "Delco" was installed there for a few street lights, homes and businesses. Chevrolet and McLaughlin-Buicks were sold there at prices one could afford to pay!

The Town was growing all the time so Dad built a Westlock Power House where the Firehall now stands, installing two huge "Delco's" to take care of more lighting all around, until Calgary Power bought his franchise when they began lighting the whole countryside.

Dad was active in town affairs and mother in church affairs as she had been at Hazel Bluff. In about 1925 they sold out and moved to Edmonton, after buying a three storey duplex on 100 Avenue and remodelling it into six suites — living in one and renting five — called Ancaster Apartments. My mother was born in Ancaster, Ontario, hence the name. My Dad kept the place ship-shape and grew lovely flowers in the small backyard. He was born in Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1866 and died in Edmonton in 1939 at the age of 73.

Mother continued buying and selling homes, improving each one, thus making a profit each time, until she finally moved back to Westlock. When she was 92, and still managing in a small suite, she had a fall that resulted in a broken hip that put her in hospital. Later she moved into Pembina Lodge, then into the Nursing Home and Auxiliary Hospital, where she passed away on Valentine's Day, 1975, at over 102 years.



The Delco engine in the Wheatley Garage that generated the first electric lights in downtown Westlock in 1921.



In 1920 I married my cousin, George James Guest, the oldest of seven children born in Chicago. His mother died after the birth of the seventh child, after his Dad (George, Sr.) and two oldest boys, George and Russell, came west. Pauline, his wife, was to follow later with four brothers and a sister. The new baby, Paul, never did get to this country, and three brothers went back to the United States when they were older; only George and a sister stayed in Canada.

As a teenager, George had learned his trade in Westlock with the late Bert Prosser in his shop over on First St. Every day he would ride in to Westlock on his bike from Hazel Bluff. For a few years on the farm he had read "Popular Mechanics" by candlelight, and was a born mechanic to start with. We had three sons, the first, George Wheatley, died from cancer in 1953 at the age of 31; the second son, Robert Lynne of Rossington, and Theodore Grant of Edmonton. There are five granddaughters and three grandsons, and five great-grandsons.

The first World War ended the day George was to have sailed across the Channel to France but it was almost a year before he returned to Canada. After his shop burned down here in December, 1932, we lived in Pickardville for three years, where he kept the garage going and our own home rented here. We then moved to the farm at Hazel Bluff when his Dad could no longer cope as he had gone blind. George's health was greatly affected by his work in the shop, but this improved by living and working on the farm. However, his customers kept coming to the farm for repair work, so he built the garage at Rossington, which was operated by son Bob and his son, Dan.

Our George had married Gladys Walls of Edmonton, and they had a family of three — Floyd, Marilyn and Rae. Bob married Else Madson from Denmark and they also had three children — Lynn, Dan and Lee. Ted married Dorothy MacDougall of Hazel Bluff and they had 2 girls — Kelly and Shirley.

Born in Chicago in 1896, my George passed away in the spring of 1976 at the age of eighty. His Dad had died in 1952 at age 84.

I am now residing at Pembina Lodge, and at age 86 am still able to play the piano the same as ever although I cannot see the music now, but have a head full of all kinds of it.

A habit of old age is looking back, but we also like to be part of the present. Seeing this country grow has been a tough but great experience, and my husband remarked many times, "We live in the best area on this Continent".

## John D. White and Emily White

John came from England in April, 1949. He was

born in Pensax, Herefordshire, son of Douglas and Adelaide White of Pensax and later of Cradley, Worcestershire.

John came over on a ship named the "S. S. Ascania" — there was a storm at sea and the ship was lost for a day and a half. When bearings could be taken it was discovered she was 150 miles off course.

Upon landing in Quebec, John headed for Alberta to work on a farm. He had previously met Mr. Bill Sexty of Pibroch, and it was there he made his home, working for him during the summer.



John White and family at Thunder Lake, 1973.

In 1952, John rented a quarter section from Mrs. T. Williams, and a quarter section from Russell Williams, 2½ miles north-west of Pibroch. He later



John White family, 1982. Standing, L to R: Carol, Margaret, Joan. Seated: John and Emily.

rented from Mr. Gordon McGillivray, Mr. W. Soltan (west of the Sunniebend bridge) and Mr. George Demuynck.

In 1960, John bought the Charles Watling farm from Mr. Demuynck, the NE¼ 13-61-27-W4. In 1965 he bought the southeast quarter of 13-61-27-W4 from George Demuynck and it is here that John, his wife and family reside today.

In 1962, John married Emily, the daughter of Bob and Emily Roberts (nee Proudlove). Emily had worked in the Bank of Montreal — first in Westlock, then in Edmonton. John and Emily have three daughters; Joan, Margaret and Carol.

Joan now makes her home in Edmonton where she is employed. Margaret will enter college this fall in the city of Edmonton. Carol still attends high school in Westlock.

## **Will and Flo Whiteman**

**by Iris (Whiteman) Smith**

My parents, Will and Flo Whiteman and their children, Iris and Ray, came to Westlock, Alberta in October, 1923, from Derby, England. My father had been ill for six months, and after his recovery, he was advised to go to a drier climate than England, either Alberta or Australia. He chose Alberta because he already had a cousin there, Charlie Morris. Their mothers were sisters. Charlie lived 4½ miles north of Hazel Bluff Church. We stayed with Cousin Charlie, his wife and daughter, for a few months, learning the ways of Alberta life.

Later, my father purchased a quarter section of land from Mr. Archibald. Its official location was known as the NW¼-24-60-1-W4th. and it was situated a ¼ mile north of the Riverdale ferry or six miles west and three and a half miles north of Westlock in the Riverdale School District. Dad was Secretary-Treasurer of the School Board for a few years, until he passed away October, 1935.

Ray joined the R.C.A.F. in 1941 and served overseas until he returned home in the spring of 1945 with an English bride, Joyce, from Derby, our home town. My mother went to Edmonton to live and Ray took over the farm until 1956, when they moved to Edmonton. They still live there. Ray is now retired. They have two girls, Sandy and Carol. Sandy is married and is living in Stony Plain. Carol lives in Edmonton. My mother continued to live in Edmonton until she passed away suddenly on March 1, 1950.

I married Oliver Smith in January, 1938. We lived in the Riverdale District for 8 years on the SW¼-36-60-1-W5th. We moved from there in 1946 to the Sunnybank School District on the SE¼-27-60-27-W4, to be closer to school. That is where I still live, Oliver having passed away in De-

cember of 1974. We had four children, who are all married. Lester is living on my parents' farmstead north of the Ferry. Joan was at Hinton, but is now in Fernie, B.C. Maureen lives in Westlock, and Flo resides on an acreage north of Devon.

## **The Arnold Wiedrick Family**

**by Arnold Wiedrick**

In 1938, Hilda and I were engaged. That fall I started building a house on the home farm. By working at the house all winter, by the next June it was finished enough that we could move in.

On June 24, 1939, we were married at the Kyle farm at Alcomdale.

After coming to this community, Hilda soon joined the Echo Hill Women's Institute, as well as being a member of the Busby United Church Women. She continued as a member of both organizations until the end of her life.

We had a family of three; Keith, Marvin and Myrna.



Arnold Weidrick family: Back row: Hilda and Arnold. Front row: Keith, Myrna and Marvin.

I farmed with my Dad until he retired in 1955 and moved to Edmonton. At that time I took over the farm and continued with the help of Keith and Marvin, while they were in school. When Keith finished High School he continued farming with me.



Marvin continued his education at the University of Alberta and became a teacher. After High School, Myrna went into nursing at the University of Alberta Hospital.

Marvin married Diane Parsons in 1969. He carried on with his career and is now Principal of the Grimshaw Elementary School. He has three children; James, John and Janelle.



Arnold and Hilda Wiedrick's 40th Wedding Anniversary. Back row: Lindsay, Myrna, Audrey, Keith, Diane and Marvin. Front row: Hilda and Arnold.

Also in 1969, Keith married Audrey Beamish and they stayed on the farm with Hilda and me. They have three children; Lori, Byron and Angela.

Myrna was nursing in B.C., and in 1977 married Lindsay Noye of Nanaimo. They live in Nanoose and both work in the hospital at Nanaimo, Myrna is a nurse and Lindsay is a Pharmacist.

In 1979 the family arranged a celebration for our 40th Anniversary, which we greatly appreciated.

Hilda passed away in 1981 and was interred in the Busby Cemetery. I continue to live on the farm in semi-retirement.

## The Wiedrick Family

by Arnold Wiedrick and Evelyn McMillan

Emerson Martin Wiedrick was born in 1880 at Hagersville, near Waterford Ontario. After completing his schooling, he farmed with his father for several years, then was employed at the Cockshutt Plow Company in Brantford, Ontario, for a few years.

In 1903, Emerson's brother, Walker, who was homesteading at Clyde, persuaded him to come west



E. Wiedrick and Maggie McRae (nee MacGregor).



Emerson Wiedrick home, 1942.

and take up a homestead, too. Emerson consequently homesteaded the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ -22-59-25-W4.

In 1905 Emerson was married to Lillian Yule of Brantford, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. George Tuttle in Edmonton, Alberta. They resided on the homestead until the fall of 1906, when they sold the homestead to lawyer R. D. Tighe and moved to Edmonton.

On April 3, 1907, a daughter, Evelyn Lillian was born and on April 21st, barely three weeks later, Lillian Wiedrick passed away.

On August 23, 1908, Emerson was married to Mabel Victoria Jarrett of Edmonton.

Emerson had a cartage business for a while, then in 1910, he and Mabel took over a General Store business from Mabel's father, William Jarrett. On June 26, 1912, a son, Arnold Clayton was born. The Wiedrick's continued to run the store until 1920. Emerson was then a salesman until coming to the Busby district in 1923, to farm once more. They farmed on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ -34-59-26-W4 for two years, then purchased and moved to the James Vanatter farm, the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -8-58-26-W4 in the fall of 1925.

Mr. Vanatter lived with us until the next summer, and as the house was small we fixed up a stationary granary for sleeping quarters for our family. I must say they were not the warmest bedrooms that winter!



Emerson and Mabel Wiedrick's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Mabel and Emerson seated in front. Standing, L to R: George McMillan, Hilda, Arnold and Marvin Wiedrick, Tom, Evelyn and Don McMillan, Keith Wiedrick.

An addition was built onto the house the next summer.

After finishing school, Arnold farmed with his father. Evelyn stayed at home, gave music lessons and played in an orchestra for dances. Arnold also played in an orchestra.

Both Emerson and Mabel took part in Community affairs. Emerson was on the Vermilion Springs School Board for many years. Both were active members of the Busby United Church. Mabel was a member of the Busby U.C.W. and the Echo Hill Women's Institute for many years.

They retired in 1955 and moved to Edmonton. In 1958 they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with an open house at their former home on the farm. Evelyn married Thomas McMillan and they had two sons, George and Donald. Arnold married Hilda Kyle of Independence and they had two sons and one daughter, Keith, Marvin and Myrna.

Mabel was deceased on October 3, 1960 and Emerson on September 23, 1964. Both are interred in the Busby Cemetery.

## The Wiersemas by John Wiersema

In April, 1954, John, Jane, and two-and-a-half years old Connie came from Holland, and landed in Montreal where they boarded the train to come west. Four days and three nights later, we finally arrived in Edmonton. If you are used to crossing a country in four hours, crossing Canada is an eye-opener. We came to Canada because of conditions in Holland — too crowded — few opportunities and an uncertain future.

John had been in the Dutch army for five years — two and a half in the Dutch East Indies — Holland was not big enough any more.



The John Wiersema family, about 1960.

Our son, John, was born in Edmonton on February 20, 1955.

In May, 1955, we moved to Rimbey and opened John's Jewellery; we stayed there until 1960.

In May, 1960, we came to Westlock where we had purchased Hansen's Jewellery and changed the name to John's Jewellery Ltd.

In the first eight months we moved four times. Every time we settled into a house, it was sold, and we had to move again. After just purchasing a business, money was not plentiful. Finally, in June, 1961, we purchased the house in which we live because our daughter, Jane, had been born on March 4th. It seemed that every time we moved we had an addition to the family, so we decided to stay put.

For the longest time, our house was known as Mrs. Hunter's home — the lady from whom we had purchased the house. It was one of the first homes on what is now 105th. Street and is about sixty years old now — but as good as new, if not better. We love the place; it is home for our children and grandchildren. Jane and I both hope we can live here many more years.

When we came in 1960, we opened the store on Friday, May 13. A lot of people said that was a bad omen, but we worked hard and built the business to what it was when we sold in 1980. We did well, and we thank our customers for that.

When we left Rimbey, Jane and I said to each other, "Let's not get too involved". We thought we would like to have a little more time to ourselves. In the first week in Westlock I was asked to lead the Scouts as Dr. Deacon was quitting as Scoutmaster and I had lead a troop in Rimbey.

We went to church, and when it was found out we loved singing, we were soon in the choir. Soon we were involved in the work of the church. Through all



this involvement in church, Chamber of Commerce, Hospital, Scouts, U.C.W., you meet people, you make friends. That is what life is all about — friends and neighbours — because without them life is poor.

Jane and I have lived here twenty-four years and they are the happiest years of our lives.

Westlock and District, keep up the good work of being friendly to newcomers. They will like it so much here that they will stay and before you know it, they will be known by new comers as old timers.

## Memories of Dapp and Westlock by Esther Wiese

Westlock was unheard of when my father Max Zeise Sr. filed on his homestead at Dapp in April 1912. The S. W. ¼-4-62-26 was twelve miles north of Westlock along what is now known as the Alaska Highway (highway 44).

Martha Nellie (Freeman) Zeise and the six children, Julius 14, Max 12 Maria, Esther (myself) Alletta 3, and Louise 19 months, followed our father from the state of Ohio U.S.A. in July of that year. From Ohio, north to Ontario, then across the prairies to Edmonton, Alberta by train. From there we took a



Nellie May Freeman (Zeise) on her favourite horse "Fly".

work train to Clyde, Alberta. That was the only railway north of Edmonton at that time. From there our neighbour from Dapp came for us with his Ox team and wagon for the journey across country to our homestead about two miles north of where the Hutterite Colony is now.

There were two more sons born on the homestead, Fred in 1915 and Robert in 1917. Dad helped deliver both of these babies.

Our home was a one room log cabin built with large fire-killed spruce logs, thirty feet long by sixteen feet wide, with a sod roof. Two windows in the



Mr. and Mrs. Max Zeise Sr.

south and one window to the north. It would leak for two or three days when it rained but was warm in the winter. There was no lumber available so Dad built three double size pole bunks and Mother made straw ticks for mattresses.

The next spring Dad and Julius, with spade and shovel cut the first sod for a small garden, and Eddie Hattenstein brought the Ox team and with Max helping they turned the first furrow of this virgin land. It was the beginning of progress in this wonderful new world.

In the meantime Dad and Julius worked out to earn money to live on and to save it to buy a team of oxen and machinery. Many acres were cleared by hand with axe, grub-hoe and hand saw and then piled by hand.

After two years Dad bought a beautiful team of coal-black oxen with long black and white horns. The oxen weighed one thousand pounds each. He drove them out from Edmonton by way of the Clyde trail, a two and a half day trip of 80 miles or so, a very rough journey especially where corduroy was laid across the soft wet muskeg, as it was impossible to travel over it in the summertime without it.

He also bought our first cow "Cherry" and we had milk, a very necessary part of our diet.

Now with his own equipment Dad could break the land and start farming for our future home. Cultivation had started in earnest across this hitherto untouched land.

It was a beautiful country, we were surrounded by nature on all sides, with beautiful clear skies, clean fresh air, all the different trees, shrubs, wild flowers and the wild rose the most outstanding. We had wild fruits, clear fresh brooks, creeks and rivers abounding in fish. For meat there was partridge, ducks, rabbits, moose and deer and the odd wild bear. You have not lived if you have not thrilled at the haunting call of our wild geese as they journey north each spring and south in the fall in their "V" formation as they complete their migration.

During the summer of 1915 our little log school house was opened for two months. It was called The



Max J. Zeise new house, 1917.

Hillman School named for Hillman Nutt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Nutt. They lived at Dapp corner then just across the road from the schoolhouse. The teacher was Miss Barker who volunteered to come out during her holidays. Our schooling was very irregular for the first few years due to lack of money and severe winters when we all walked.

After taking part of grade eight I worked for board and room in Edmonton and completed both grade eight and nine. That summer Maria and I worked for Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hergott owners of the Shepherd Hotel at that time. After working and saving for three years I had enough money to take a Beauty Course at the Capital Beauty Parlor in Edmonton. I came back to Westlock and opened up The Westlock Beauty Parlor next door to Mr. Gross's Barber Shop. This was in the summer of 1922. I enjoyed my work and my customers, but I wanted to get back to the farm.

I had met Rudolph Wiese some time before this and we were married the following year. We lived with his Father for three years, then moved onto our own farm at Linaria. In 1934 while we were living at Sunniebend at Grandad Wiese's place our first child

was born a little daughter whose name was Rosalie Mae Wiese. She died at birth. At Linaria we had four sons.

James Martin Wiese — 1934, Max Rudolph Wiese 1937, John Charles Wiese in 1938 and Dan Stewart Freddrick Wiese 1950.

Rudolph passed away on January 29th 1969.

The boys all farm. Jim Max and Dan are in partnership farming, and John and Barbara have a dairy and farm as well. They have a family of five Randall 15, Jody 13, Todd 9, Troy 8 and Niki 5.

Jim has two daughters Susan 23 and Cindy 18, he lives at Linaria with his wife and girls.

## **The Wightmans**

**by Mary MacGregor**

### **The Story of a Very Fine Gentleman and a Gallant Lady**

Wilbert and Bertha had a very romantic beginning love story which they carried on all through their forty-nine years of married life together. Wilbert Wightman went south to Kentucky from Ontario to work, in the spring of 1905. Bertha Karn came there from Alabama to visit. It was love at first sight, and these two were married in Richmond, Kentucky, on the second day of July, 1905. They went to Bertha's home in Alabama to say good-bye to her family before coming to Ontario, Canada, to make their home. Wilbert had been born in Ontario, so in a sense, it was going home to him but to a gallant little lady, it was a great step into the unknown, to venture that far from all family and friends with a young clear-eyed, adventurous lad.

W. C. (Wilbert) and Bertha Wightman arrived in Edmonton in July, 1912. They were met at Morinville, the end of the railway at that time, by John Alton with a two-seater democrat and a team of cayuses. Bessie Alton was Wilbert's sister, and she and John had come out west two years before her brother and his family came. What a far cry from a comfortable little home in Sault Ste. Marie, where Wilbert had been a milkman and street car conductor, to the great west where land was free and a great life beckoned to the pioneer spirit.

Wilbert, during that first winter in Alberta, acquired a grain grinder and a portable saw for cutting firewood and a stationary engine mounted on a sleigh, and he spent his first winter on the farms of the settlers who needed the services of grinder and saw. Within a year, after living on two rented farms and losing all household furnishings in a disastrous fire on the second one, the family took up residence on a homestead which is three miles north of the golf course.

A house, barn, chicken house and pig barn of



sawn timber, were all built in short order, with the help of good neighbors — Norman and Vern McNiven, Edwin and Arthur Stanley, the Letts and the Hides — Aunt Hattie and Uncle Harry Hide were Wilbert's aunt and uncle.

The homestead was well wooded, and much of this wood was gradually cut down and stumps were cleared for breaking to begin. After the hand labor with an axe, horses and a breaking plow were used to furrow the land ready for discs and harrows and the seed drill. Added to these labors was the threshing machine with its custom work for neighbors — Wilbert's next project, Bertha working by his side in haying, stooking the sheaves and doing the chores. Doing chores meant milking cows, separating the cream from the milk, feeding pigs and chickens, gardening, picking wild berries in season and canning and pickling. Long black stockings were knitted for everyone for winter wear, clothes for mother and daughter were sewn and mending was a weekly job. By this time, the family of three children from Ontario were increased by Charles, Chester, and Arthur, all these three having died in early childhood, then Ivan, Esther and Edna completed the family.

One wonders how two people could have accomplished so much in so short a time. Yet the children, looking back on their childhood, remember not just the work but the fun and games, the picnics, the big family dinners on Sundays and on holidays. There was the piano, music lessons, the gramophone and many records, reading the Bible to the children all curled up on the big bed with Mother and Dad, the Ford touring car for trips to town and the berry patches, and church at Hazel Bluff on Sundays. There was singing songs with Mother at the piano, and games in the woods with home-made skis. What a rich heritage Wilbert and Bertha gave to their children and, in return, were themselves enriched by all they gave.

The Wightmans were very interested and active in the development of the community services such as schools, churches, community halls and social and sports activities. Sunnybank School, Hazel Bluff Church, Sunnybank Community Telephone Company, Westlock Curling Club, community picnics — all were supported by Wilbert and Bertha. Wilbert served as municipal councillor on the Pibroch Municipal Council for sixteen years, many of those years as Reeve.

Now a little word about the Wightman family. Frank, who farmed for some years near Westlock, became a trucker and with his equipment worked on the Alcan Highway, the dam at Kitimat, B.C., and many other projects, went to live in California, where he worked in mountain logging camps, on the

Oroville Dam, and on the seacoast road. He is now retired and lives with his wife, Blanche, in Paradise, California.

Mary, whose ambition was from the age of six to be a school teacher, did just that and spent thirty-two years in classrooms and as Music Supervisor of the Westlock School Division. She married William MacGregor, farmer and Municipal Councillor and Secretary for many years.

Harold, one time farmer and service station operator, with his wife Mabel Baker, went to Vancouver where he learned the plumber's trade. He later moved to Kelowna where he operated a successful plumbing business. He now enjoys retirement which includes golf, and fishing trips.

Ivan, at the age of 17, joined the Calgary Highlanders and went off to World War II in Europe. He served in Sicily, Italy and the Netherlands, driving trucks to bring up supplies to the front-line trenches. He and his wife, Esther Lyster, made their home in Victoria, B.C., where Ivan worked for the City Utilities for thirty years.

Edna married James Platt and they took over the home farm of Will and Daisy Platt, two miles north of Westlock. They farmed there for twenty-three years and had a family of seven children. Edna and Jim are living in Westlock where Jim works for the Municipal District and Edna keeps open house for children, grandchildren and many good friends who find a warm welcome there.

Esther married Jim Valsonis and they lived in Vancouver for some time. They developed an acreage for strawberry growing at White Rock, B.C. They moved to Los Angeles, California. Esther is a touch-up artist in a photographic studio and Jim is a construction foreman. They have a beautiful retirement home on the high desert north of Palm Springs.

Wilbert and Bertha Wightman moved to Vancouver from the farm in 1937. Wilbert worked in the North Van Shipyard, building freighters for the war effort, thus feeling he was contributing his share. They two lie buried side by side in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Vancouver.

### **Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Wilson by Vera Wilson**

Lloyd R. Wilson, after serving in the first World War, returned to Edmonton, and in 1919 bought the SE¼-16-59-25-W4, two and a half miles west of Vimy for \$2950.00. It had only eight acres broken on it, the rest was heavy timber.

In the late fall of 1919, he purchased some cattle and three horses. Winter set in early that year, about October 14th. Feed was scarce and hard to get. By spring, many of those cattle died and those that were

left sold for only ten or twelve dollars. The cost price was around one hundred dollars. That spring they hauled feed on sleighs in May. Lloyd put in his crop of eight acres and then went out working. In July of that year Lloyd and I were married and came to live in our little two-roomed log shack at Vimy.



The Lloyd Wilson family. L to R: Allen, Wesley, Marguerite, Thelda, Leitta, Germaine, Vera, Keith, Warren and Lloyd. Taken in 1950.

That summer we put up, and baled, two carloads of hay. They were square bales tied with wire. We also took two racks of hay to the city, as Lloyd and his father had a contract to haul coal that winter. By the way, when we were crossing the High Level Bridge, I hit it. Lloyd could not leave his load to help me, but a kind man got out of his car and got me out of the jam. I never heard the last of that! What a driver I was. The bridge has never been the same.

I picked forty quarts of wild strawberries that summer, they were so thick. In the fall of 1920 I went teaching at Holmdean School in Holden. Everything went fine until I took a severe attack of appendicitis, and before I could be operated on, it burst. I had to remain in the hospital for some time.

In the early spring, my father came to Edmonton and wanted to rent his land to us. We accepted his offer and moved our belongings fifteen miles south-east of Wetaskiwin on the Battle River, near Hobema. We got very little rain that summer, so our crop was light, but we stuck it out till the fall of 1922, with no success. This was the first time it was ever known to have a crop failure in that part of Alberta. Lloyd went out threshing that fall.

When he was through, we made our departure for Vimy with our fourteen cows and registered Hereford bull, two racks with feed and our belongings — among them a feather tick to put on the straw to sleep on in one corner of the rack. The hired man had a

similar one on the other rack. Lloyd and the hired man took turns riding horseback to guide the cattle on the trail, but after two days the cattle followed real well. The first day, we reached Wetaskiwin and stayed at Jim Cane's place. (He was Wally Mountain's father). Each day we made the same distance, when we would camp for the night and milk the cows. Nearing Edmonton, we stopped at a loading place for cattle (something like a corral). After milking the cows we went to Lloyd's folks for the night. We were up at three o'clock the next morning to get



Lloyd and Vera Wilson. Wedding Anniversary.

our stock across the High Level Bridge before the street-cars started up, and we went past Lloyd's folks place. The next day their neighbors remarked, "Did you hear the cowbells during the night? Just as we got over the bridge the first street-cars started running and Lloyd's horse slipped and fell, resulting in Lloyd getting a sprained ankle. So, the hired man had to do the rounding up and Lloyd drove the other team. We travelled for some distance until it was time to feed and milk the cows, and also for us to have our breakfast by the bonfire that we lit where 122nd Avenue and 142nd Street now is. We managed to get Lloyd off the rack. He was quite lame. A lady saw we were having trouble and had us bring Lloyd to her house. She bathed his ankle, bandaged it up and gave us a tin of Zambuck to apply on it. She told us there



was a faith doctor in St. Albert who would help Lloyd. We went to him, and later gave him a crock of butter for his services. We gave the lady all the milk we got that morning. She was very pleased. After that, we fixed a platform for our DeLaval separator, so that we could separate the milk and save the cream, which brought us Ten Dollars when we sold it after we got home. We still had four more days to go. Fortunately we had warm sunny weather except for the last day, when I had to go into a home just across the tracks at Casavanant's corner, to get my feet warmed up. We arrived at our little log shack at five p.m. on October 28th. Even though a forest fire had burned one half of our hay and burned our barn, we were glad to be home.

The next morning the men had planned to bank the shack, but a foot of snow had fallen during the night. A neighbor told us to put our stock in his barn, a quarter of a mile away, as he wasn't using it. How glad we were! Lloyd and the man soon got busy and put up a makeshift barn, then the man made his departure for his home, taking the one outfit back with him.

We were told that the fire which burned our hay was so bad that traffic was closed for two days on Highway 2 because of the smoke. Most of the timber on our place was burned to the ground. In going to Vimy, the wagon wheels were up to the hubs in ashes. At night, when you returned from a neighbor's, you couldn't see your house for smoke as the land in places, was still burning.

Three months from the day we arrived, our oldest boy was born, during the worst blizzard Dr. Riopel claimed he had ever been out in. It played out two teams to get to us. Warren was born one hour before the doctor arrived. We had two stoves going, and the Polish lady who took care of me put hot bricks around me. As soon as a warm spell came, I left for mother's, as she was taking care of our little girl until we got the shack fixed so that it would be warm for her.

In the meantime, Lloyd was busy with the chores, and clearing trees off the land, to be able to break it up in the spring. In April, I and my two kiddies came back to a big surprise. In the kitchen was a new McClary range.

That year we milked twenty-three cows by hand. Ten of them we rented from our neighbor at \$20.00 including the calves. That summer the neighbors sold their baby calves at a dollar each. By fall we had twenty eight head. We also rented fifty acres at the Vimy corner, which was a big help. Lloyd also leased the school section for pasture. It lay adjacent to our land. He allowed a neighbor to pasture his stock there and he, in turn, helped fence it. That fall our crop was frozen and not fit for feed, but we had to get it off our

land. That was a big loss as it was a heavy crop and we had the stokers to pay. Each year brought its good and bad times. That winter my mother, while visiting us, got pneumonia and passed away. That was hard to take.

That year I was offered the position of teacher at the Elk Park school. I rode horseback a distance of four miles. It was on one of these occasions that the girl I had helping me was unable to come. I had to take my two children with me to a neighbor, Mrs. Bourgois, two miles away and on my road to school. Once, on arriving home, a neighbor was there and remarked, "Now I can see why Alberta has such good cowboys — they learn to ride before they walk!"

By 1928, two daughters were born, Germaine and Marguerite. During the summer, when not putting up hay, Lloyd worked as a foreman in the Municipal District of Hazelwood. He also got his horses on the job. Later, Lloyd qualified for a foreman's job on Highway 2, near Calgary. The wages were fifty-five cents an hour, and one dollar board. This was during the depression. The other workers received twenty-five cents an hour. We had to keep a girl and a man as we always milked ten to twenty cows, and farmed as well.

By 1934, our family had increased to "We are seven" with the addition of Thelda, Keith and Wesley. We had already bought the Acquin quarter and in 1936 purchased one of Alex Brown's quarters. Lloyd still kept on doing road construction work and in 1940 he bought the Dupuis quarter on the correction line. In 1942 we enlarged the house with a kitchen and basement. Allan was born that year.

Our children took their formative education at Elk Park, and then on to Vimy to complete high school.

In 1948 we bought the Bishop place, four miles south of Clyde corner. We made it our home, and through the years, farmed and raised cattle until Lloyd's health started to fail.

After a longing to go back teaching in 1955, I did some sub-teaching with Edmonton Public School Board, and the following year accepted a position at Kinuso, where I taught Grades III and IV for two years. I then took a school at Duffield for four years with the same grades, and lastly taught at Hazelton, B.C. for one year, retiring there.

In 1965, with failing health, Lloyd sold some of his land and stepped into semi-retirement. With our family raised we were able to happily reap the fruits of our labor.

On July 22, 1981, Lloyd passed away. He left eight children (two deceased, Warren and Keith), twenty-five grandchildren and twelve great-grand-

children, three sisters and many friends, as well as memories that I and the family will cherish forever.

I am now living in Pembina Lodge, where I have already made many new friends.

## **Tom and Ruth Wilson**

**by Olive Hope**

Tom Wilson, his wife Ruth and two sons, Roger and Norman, first lived on the NW¼ 3-60-25-W4, moving later to the NE¼ 19-60-25-W4.

Tom was a Scotsman and loved to recite Bobbie Burns poems in the Scotch accent. He played the violin at a lot of local dances. He taught George Hope how to play the violin. He then made up a group of George and himself on violins, Olive Hope on the guitar and Cyril Joyce on drums. They played for dances at Reed Lake School many times.

Tom made his own violins, just using a butcher knife, a file and sandpaper to shape and thin the wood. They always sounded very good.

He was alone in his later years, as his boys were on their own and his wife left him. He passed away in 1936, and is buried in Dungannon Cemetery.

## **Fred Wirtz**

**by Loyd McMillan**

In the summer of 1910, a young man from Wisconsin came into the area looking for land. Most of the better land had been taken up by this time. He filed on the SW¼-16-58-26-W4, which had been filed on three times before by different men, but none had stayed long enough to prove it up. At that time it had a couple of sloughs running across it.

He pitched a tent and worked at clearing until winter came, then he went back to Wisconsin to work in the woods for the winter. He came back again the following spring, and did the same for several years. One summer he bought a team of oxen and a wagon, built a nice, small log house and settled down to farm.

He was a nice fellow and a very good neighbour. He was handy at almost anything, so he got a lot of work in the neighbourhood which supplied some financial aid, along with meals, which he really enjoyed, as he hated cooking for himself.

Fred's first winter on the homestead was very disagreeable as he was not used to such cold weather. He stayed a few more years and got his land proved up, but decided to go back to Wisconsin. He sold his homestead in 1917.

## **Boltzer and Eva Witter**

**by Ruth Witter**

Boltzer Witter was born August 11, 1876 and

married Eva Farr who was born April 11, 1887. Both were from Park Rapids, Minn., U.S.A.

As bride and groom they moved to Beaton, B.C. where Mr. Witter worked as a stage coach driver and blacksmith. In 1911 they moved to this area, and homesteaded a half section south of Pickardville. At this time they had three boys, Jerome, Cecil and Ronald, and one girl, Alma. The roads were just trails through the bush and the children attended the old Pickardville tin school. Later, they attended and walked to The Advance School. They then bought a quarter section on 8-58-27-W4, then the quarter east of theirs, and still later another quarter plus half a quarter (80 acres) west of the Arvilla School.

The land was cleared slowly and with much hard work from all the family. They farmed with oxen, then horses, and were one of the first to own a Fordson Tractor. Boltzer also carried on his blacksmithing. His wife, Eva, worked with the chickens and cows, helped in the fields and raised her family. She also aided Drs. Phillips and Millar as a midwife. The boys, with their father, spent many winters in the woods hauling logs. People came from miles around to have their blacksmith work done. Most of the work was donated, as nobody had much money.

Cecil and Jerome remained with their father on the farm until their father passed away. Eva died of cancer in 1930. Cecil, who had been crippled in a fall in the woods, remained on the farm with Ronald and his family until about 1959. He spent the remaining years of his life in Nursing Homes. After his father's death, Jerome married, and a few years later moved from the area. Ronald bought the farm from Jerome and moved his family back from the West Coast in the fall of 1944. Ronald and his wife, Ruth, still reside there, although the land is now owned by their son, Dennis, who also lives there with his wife, Edna, and their three daughters.

## **John P. Wodelet**

**by Miller Watt**

One of the early pioneers in the Westlock district who should be included in the early history of the area is John P. Wodelet, Sr. John, (or Jack, as he was known to so many) came to the Sunniebend area when the century was beginning its teen years. He started improving up a homestead on land along the Pembina River which later became the Bill Smart, Sr. farm.

The house he built on the river side of the quarter was destroyed by fire, which caused the loss of nearly all the possessions of Jack and his wife, Gertrude (nee Laun), and perhaps was also instrumental in causing a move to a second homestead near where the Sunniebend Bridge crosses the Pembina today. This



farm was later owned by Forest Adair and his wife. In those days, of course, there was no bridge, and Jack possibly became the first Ferryman at the location, a duty which he performed for the early settlers for several years. Being a government employee, he also helped out at various duties such as Commissioner for Oaths, and the relay and signature of pertinent documents when necessary. Some details, which couldn't be finalized locally, made it necessary to walk to Morinville; something that Jack did several times.

The winter of 1919 which was the severest of many winters in the region, when snow in great quantities, with very cold temperatures, came in early October and stayed until May. Many of the early settlers lost most, if not all of their livestock because of lack of feed. The winter was a severe blow to Jack and his wife, too. He did have an average stock of feed but often his neighbors would bring their stock to him, hoping he would have enough to feed theirs, too, but the hay and straw was limited and many head were lost before the spring came.

Early in 1921 a son, John, Jr., was born to the couple and shortly afterward they took their offspring and moved to the U.S.A. Their first venture was a bakery and cafe at Twisp, Washington, and a later bakery at San Francisco. Five years after leaving Sunniebend, the family returned from the United States, but this time they stayed in Westlock, where Jack went into the Real Estate business. He helped several early pioneers with loans to get them on their feet in their various enterprises. He next operated a filling station in the old brick garage where the present Westlock Hardware store stands today. Then in 1933, he became the Imperial Oil Agent, a business he and his son operated until 1967. It should also be mentioned that after World War II, when Westlock was experiencing some growing pains, Jack was one of the partners who purchased the Fred Westgate quarter, and this was subdivided into lots and acreages to supply the needs of the rapid expansion taking place at that time.

In 1968, Jack Wodelet moved, along with his wife, to Penticton, B.C. near where his son and family were residing.

Gertrude passed away in 1970 and Jack in 1978 at the age of 94. Son John Jr. and his wife, Lorraine, still live in Penticton. Their children are scattered, except for Caroline, who is near her folks. Jack and Dave are in Edmonton, and Richard is in Vancouver.

### **Edgar and Lydia Wood**

#### **Resident in Westlock from 1935 to 1953**

William Aberhart and his new Social Credit Party were elected by a landslide, the future of Alberta changed, and so did the direction of our lives.

It was the spring of 1935 and the peak of the drought and depression in Southern Alberta. Dad was Agriculturist for the Provincial Government in Hanna and orders had just come for him to relocate in Sangudo.



Lydia and Edgar Wood with dog (Pry). Taken in 1942.

The prospect of greener pastures looked promising so Mother, Dad and I lost no time in packing up and heading north. Hope soon faded when no housing could be found in Sangudo and we were forced to take temporary accommodation in Edmonton.

Dad commuted back and forth on weekends, weather and roads permitting, but the future, as far as ever getting settled in Sangudo, seemed dismal. Finally, at the end of August, the provincial election took place and within a few days of the change of government, Dad was redirected to Westlock as their first resident District Agriculturist.

We were overjoyed with the new arrangement. Dad recognized the agricultural potential of this fertile and progressive area and Mother fell in love with the town.

The first Agriculturist's office was set up in a small building next to Thibeaults' Shoe Repair on main street. It was not long before this was outgrown and Dad moved a block north to the municipal building, which he shared with Archie Brown.

As a family we were fortunate to find a comfortable home to rent (the one now owned by Marie Lindahl). Libby Hunter was one of the first to call and I was delighted to find she had a daughter, Betty, just my own age.

We were soon acquainted with all our neighbors for we frequently met as we shared water from the outdoor well in Daly's back yard.

Gatherings at the well were not always friendly encounters. I remember a few years later, when we had moved into the Stutchbury house, the well there was used for the neighborhood water supply. One evening Dr. Millions and his big Chesapeake came ambling over for the nightly pail of water. Our Springer spaniel "Pry" was tied to his dog house just off to one side of the well. Whatever was said between the two dogs, Pry was not one to back down, and just as Dr. Millions finished pumping his pail full, the two dogs flew at each other and the fight was on.

Mother tore out of the house, remembered someone telling her that water would break up a dog fight, grabbed the pail by the pump and with all her might "swooshed" the water toward the dogs. She was never noted for her direct aim, and this time she managed to get, not only the dogs but also Dr. Millions, just as he made a lunge for the animals. The force of the water sent him flying into the mud, white shirt, pressed trousers and all. After he was able to catch his breath and wipe the mud from his hands, he picked up the pail, grabbed his dog and left.

A few minutes later the phone rang and it was Lydia Millions, almost speechless from laughter, wanting to know "whatever had Mother done to her husband?"

Our arrival in Westlock coincided with the Annual Fall Fair. The fair was having a particularly bad year, due to general lack of interest. And, to make matters worse, an early frost had wiped out crops and gardens alike. Dad resolved to do what he could to re-establish the fair — and this became one of his first challenges.

Ed Renton, president of the Agricultural Society and Robert Smith, editor of the Westlock Witness, were still very enthusiastic supporters of the fair. Dad became Secretary Treasurer of the Society, a position he held for ten years, and together they put in many hours of planning and reorganizing. Success was not without considerable "family involvement" as well. I remember Mother and I staying up all night before

"Fair Day", baking cakes and arranging flowers to swell the number of entries.

By 1940 the fair was once again a first class exhibition, with quality exhibits in livestock, garden produce, home canning, baking, and crafts. The ladies served delicious meals and home baked pies. A midway entertained adults and children alike and a stage show wound up the evening.

Dad believed every good fair should conclude with fireworks, but could find no one who shared his enthusiasm. Determined, he programmed a display himself, built the rocket shoots, and with the help of some boys fired it off without a hitch. It was a great finale.



Edgar Wood, Lorna Wood (Connolly), and Lydia Wood.

Agriculture was expanding in many areas, and by the late 30's there was a real interest in growing forage seed. Dad promoted the idea to the farmers of the Westlock area and assisted them in getting small quantities of seed at a reduced price, under the distribution policy of the Field Crops Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

By 1947, marketing forage seed became a million dollar industry in the area. This business also proved to be the most stimulating aspect of all Dad's work in Westlock. He eventually left the Government in 1946, to join the Alberta Seed Growers Association and devote full time to this specialty.

Beekeeping in the area developed as a direct



result of forage crops, but got its big boost with the introduction of sugar rationing during the war. Until about 1939, only a few hives were kept by George McTavish and Miller Watt and his father.

The Westlock and District Beekeepers Association was formed and as founding Secretary it was Dad's responsibility to order and distribute package bees from California. Meeting the "Bee Train" was an exciting and dangerous adventure. Townspeople and prospective beekeepers alike, turned out to meet the N.A.R. run on the appointed evening. As the train slowed to a stop, and the express car doors were flung open, everyone would stand back. Crates of bees were gingerly passed from one to another, then stacked on the platform. Hitchhiker bees flew free everywhere but strangely enough, I don't recall anyone ever being stung!

Advising the newly established beekeepers on the finer techniques of caring for their bees was also expected of Dad — but this had never been part of his training and in truth he was rather apprehensive. He figured the only way he would learn was by practical experience — so, our own three hive apiary was set up on our front lawn. The neighbors were more than a little skeptical but were soon won over with a fresh jar of honey in the fall.

Honey was marketed through the Association and sold for seven cents a pound. The quality was the finest. Large fields of clover and wild fireweed produced a pure white honey, and an entry from Westlock District won a "first" at the British Empire Exhibition in London.

Another outcome of the forage seed business was the first municipal seed cleaning plant to be established in the province. This was built in Westlock, after a small, privately owned plant, built three years before, demonstrated the need, but proved to be inadequate.

Dad's work left little time for personal pleasures but he did enjoy two hobbies, curling in the winter and growing gladiolas in the summer.

Curling was a very competitive sport shared by most of the townspeople. Even on cold, dark winter nights, spectators would come to watch bonspiel games in the unheated rink.

One particular bonspiel, Dad was skipping a mixed rink with Mrs. Henderson as his third. They were into the finals against Ivan Sutherland and his rink and the game has progressed to the last end. The score was tied. Tension mounted as Dad threw his last rock — and counted. Excitement could not have been greater if they'd been playing in the "Briar".

Growing gladiolas all started with a gift of a few bulbs, all named varieties. Before long, Dad found, in his enthusiasm, he had accumulated over 500

bulbs and, as Mother put it, it became a case of "The tail wagging the dog".

Every spare minute, Dad devoted to cultivating, tying up the flowering spikes or trimming. But the May 1st planting deadline involved all of us and frequently our friends as well.

Dad's greatest achievement was winning "Championship Gladiola" at the 1944 Edmonton Horticultural Show.

Mother and I were willing participants in much of Dad's work. Often during the summer we would pack a lunch, load into the old Government Ford and accompany Dad on his calls.

Occasionally we were called upon to cater lunch for a Farmers' meeting or Agricultural Field Day. On one such occasion we were to provide sandwiches, but it was during the war years and butter was severely rationed. Mother gathered together what she could, and managed to triple the volume by whipping in water. No one at the meeting knew the difference.

Visitors from the Department of Agriculture who we met and entertained, brought an added dimension to our lives, especially mine. Vera Richards and Edna Dakin were two of the Home Economists sent to Westlock to conduct short courses for the ladies of the community. They left a lasting impression on me and eventually I followed a career in a related field.

Edna Dakin was "impressed" too, by Jim Eaton, an R.C.M.P. constable stationed in Westlock. They married, lived in Westlock a short time, and are now residing in Vancouver.

As an ex school teacher, Mother had a wide range of interests. She enjoyed young people and took on the leadership of the C.G.I.T. group. The local Drama Club produced one or two plays a year and Mother generally had a part in these or helped with the sets.

The Book Club provided a tremendous service to the community before a library was established and Mother was a very active participant in this group. She was president for one year, secretary treasurer for six years and on the book buying committee for two years.

Sports were also important in Mother's life. She shared the excitement of curling but never on the same rink with Dad. Badminton was popular and regulars such as Jim Eaton and Ted Buchanan from the local R.C.M.P. detachment, Marian Kirby, Teddy kickham and Mother played "sportingly competitive" games.

Sunday afternoons through the winter were reserved for skating. It was a hardy group that turned out, even if the temperature dropped to 30 or 40 below. Generally included were Ira Boyd, Ivy Nash, Beth McCullough, Horace Watkins, Leslie Smith,

Bill Clark, and of course, Mother. Speed skates were the fashion and "Crack the Whip" was the game!

Gardening was, and still is, Mother's favorite pastime. The Jamison house which Mother and Dad bought in 1941 had a large corner lot and Mother soon made this into a showplace. She planted 119 dozen bedding out plants into borders and window boxes. Until 1948 when utilities were finally installed, water for the plants was carried from a pump in the kitchen.

Between Dad's gladiolas and the other plants, we always had an abundance of flowers for cutting. Arrangements of these were shared freely for weddings, funerals and special occasions.

In 1953 Mother and Dad reluctantly left Westlock to move to Edmonton where Dad continued to work with the Alberta Seed Growers.

Following retirement in 1960 they moved again, this time to Sidney, B.C., where they still live in their home by the sea. Mother at 84 tends her garden and Dad at 92 enjoys the results of her skill.

On August 24, 1981 Mother and Dad celebrated their 60th anniversary. Many Westlock friends were present and Alan Westgate proposed the toast to them.

My husband and I reside in Vancouver and one of us visits the Island weekly. Memories of Westlock are still vivid for Mother and Dad and the happiest times are recalling these with family and friends.

## A. E. Wood Family by Francis Wood

In the fall of 1919 Alf and his brother, Fred, left England and took up homesteads in the Jarvie area. Alf filed on S.W. 16-64-26-W4. Also, in the fall of 1919 Bert Bedell and Fred Cadwalder, along with Bert's sister Frances, returned to their homesteads in the Jarvie area from the army overseas.

It wasn't long till Alf and Frances met. On December 5, 1921 at the Assiniboia Hall, University of Alberta, they were married. They returned to their homestead where, on September 14, 1922, Ernest was born. The land on the homestead was very poor and so in 1923 they made a move to Westlock where they bought the N.W. 18-60-26 W4 which had been homesteaded by Fred Westgate. This was where the rest of the family were born: Francis (Frank), 1925, Matthew 1927, Thelma 1929 and Rosemary 1931.

In 1927 Dad bought the quarter across the road, N.E. 13-60-27 W4, but in 1929 the dirty thirties hit and things went down hill for a while. By 1938 Dad lost that quarter for taxes. At this time he went back to England to work in his dad's boat-building shop where they built sculls for the Oxford and Cambridge boat races. Meanwhile, Mom, with the help of the kids, was keeping the farm going. We were supposed



Frank and Nellie Wood wedding picture.

to join Dad but the war was building, and so, lucky for us, their plans were changed. When the war broke out Dad came back to Canada where he went to work for Coutts Machinery, then to the B.C. shipyards where he worked until the end of the war. He then went back to Coutts until he came home to stay in 1949.

Dad also enjoyed painting pictures, gardening and his music. He took many prizes with his paintings at the Toronto Fair, Calgary Stampede and Edmonton Exhibition. Mom loved the farm and she also loved to read. She set up a library while homesteading at Jarvie. She also liked to recite the epitaphs on the gravestones from Shropshire, England. Just a couple I can remember:



Graduation of Thelma Wood.



Graduation of Rosemary Wood.



"Here am I and my two daughters  
All thru' the drinking of Harrogate waters,  
If we had taken epsom salts  
We wouldn't be lying in these here vaults."

"I tell you good people, let wind go free  
For the keeping of wind was the killing of me."

All in all, Mom and Dad had their good times as well as the bad.

Dad passed away in 1969 and Mom in 1970 and are at rest in the Westlock cemetery.

Ernest joined the army in 1941 and went overseas until the end of the war. While there he married Ann Sewalt. They had one son, Ernie, and they now live in Westlock.

Thelma and Rosemary received their education in Westlock and on completing their high school went in for training at the Lamont Hospital where they received their R.N. Certificates. Thelma now lives in Florida. Rosemary married Ed Wiederick and has three girls — Joan, Cathy and Sandra. She lives in Wetaskiwin. During Mom and Dad's stay at the Auxiliary hospital, it was there I met Nellie Letts and in 1969 we were married. Nell and I are still farming and live on the home farm just north of Westlock.



Wood sawing outfit for making stove blocks out of trees for fuel.

This old farm brings many memories. One day in 1936 Father came home pretty upset. He had been taking the cream over to the creamery and on the way he met Uncle Herb and Fred. He told them he would pick them up. On the way back from the creamery he had to pass Ed Missal's blacksmith shop and Ed started his trip-hammer which startled the team. When Father went sailing through Main Street, Uncle Bert turned to Fred and said, "I don't think he's going to stop, do you?" Father carried on down the street to where McIntoshes lived. There was still bush on the west side of the street. He ran the team into the trees to stop them. He sat down on the wagonbox floor to catch his breath. Mrs. McIntosh

came running across the street thinking he had fainted and threw a large jug of water over his head. So poor old Dad had had a hard day.

## **Thomas and Marjory Wood**

**by Lydia and George Wood**

Tom and Marjory Wood came to Canada from Arbroath, Scotland on June 26, 1926, with their two sons, George and Jim.

They came to Busby by train and walked to their uncle Duncan Petrie's farm where they stayed until they bought a farm of their own. About this time, a quarter of land owned by a Mr. Wilson, came up for sale. It was two miles east of Busby. The next two years were hard and difficult as they struggled to make a home, get land under cultivation to make a living, in spite of a long battle with homesickness.

George married Lydia Matear, and their only child, a daughter Doreen, is now deceased.

Jim married Margaret Reynolds. Their children are Marjory and Gary.

Tom and Marjory eventually left the farm and resided in Busby a few years. Eventually, when their health was failing, they bought a home in Westlock. Tom passed away in 1976 and Marjory spent her last years in the Auxiliary Hospital and Nursing Home in Westlock. She passed away in 1981.

George and Lydia live in Busby and Jim and Margaret in Westlock.

## **The William John (Will) Wood Family**

**by Alma (Wood) Keller  
and Alberta (Wood) Maitland**

Will Wood was born and raised on Manitoulin Island in Ontario. He came west in 1930 and homesteaded two miles west and a half mile south of where Westlock now stands. His widowed Mother and two sisters Myrtle and Ethel followed about 1910. Mrs. Wood filed her claim on the quarter section south of Will's. One brother, Leslie remained on the family farm in Ontario.

Ethel's marriage to Frank Harrold was short lived as she died at an early age soon after their marriage.

In 1916 Myrtle married Rudolph Westgate whose farm was on the N.W.-5-60-26-W4. Rudolph's family were active pioneers and the first part of Westlock's name was taken from their family name. (The latter part was taken from a neighboring farmer, Mr. Lockhart.) Three children, Ralph, Lorne and Aileen were born to Myrtle and Rudolph and all are now residing in B.C. Myrtle passed away in Penticton, B.C. in 1966 and Rudolph in 1967.

Nellie Pollard was born and raised in Thessalon, Ontario and came west as a teenager with her family,



Nellie and Will Wood with two eldest children, Gladys and Freeman.

to where her Father homesteaded on the S.W.-4-59-26-W4 near Clyde. Nellie worked in a boarding house at Clyde Corner, catering mainly to the men working on the Edmonton to Athabasca Railroad. It was also an important stopping place for settlers as it was the last eating place on the way to the "North-West Frontier". Nellie must have been active in the Edison community as she was chosen to be "Miss Canada" at the Sports Day Celebration of the C.N.R. reaching Clyde.

Will and Nellie's marriage was the first wedding performed in the Edison Church. Nellie went with her husband to his homestead and his palatial one-room homesteader's shack. Over the years as their family increased, Will increased the size of their house.

Will served with the 50th Battalion in the Great War and was seriously wounded at Vimy Ridge. During his absence Nellie carried on with her two young children, Gladys and Freeman. This time was extremely hard on war time wives as not only did they contend with isolation, loneliness, no radio, phone or quick transportation, but the plain hard labour of a homestead took its toll. Nellie and Will's Mother who lived a quarter mile away had a prearranged signal of waving their lighted lanterns each evening to designate that all was well. During this time Nellie



Will Wood family. Will Wood with Alma on his knee. Standing at back: Freeman, Gladys. Front: Earl and Phyllis. Nellie Wood with Allen on knee.

lost one son (stillborn) after unloading a sleigh load of coal.

After spending many months in hospital in England and longing to see his wife with her long fair tresses, you can imagine Will's chagrin at stepping off the train in Edmonton, on his return from overseas, to see Nellie standing there with a pert new short "bob".

Although his wounds necessitated the use of a brace, with crutches or cane Will carried on with farming his homestead and later bought his Mother's quarter when she moved into Westlock. He was also very adept at carpentry and mechanics. His garage or workshop was ingenious even by today's standards. One engine with pulleys and belts was used to pump water, run the washing machine, churn, grinder, crusher, milk separator and fanning mill. A camp stove in the garage also heated the wash water so Nellie did not have to lug water from the house some distance away.

In due course Phyllis, Earle, Alma and Allan put in their appearances and their memories of Will and his love of cars are vivid. As it is with husbands today, while Nellie was visiting in Ontario in 1924, Will wrote her of his fantastic deal in selling his Ford and buying a new Star car. The excerpt from his letter to Nellie gives the details.

For several years besides farming, Will was Secretary-Treasurer of the Hazelwood M.D. #579 and was also Land Officer for a time. Although we are not aware of any particular incident, the area was still untamed enough to necessitate Will having a revolver in his office. This revolver was a constant worry to Nellie until she turned it over to the R.C.M.P. at the outbreak of World War II. During this time the W. J. Wood phone was No. 6. Will was also a charter member of the Westlock Masonic Lodge.





Nellie Wood.

As with all true farmers, Will's big dream of building a modern barn was realized in 1927. This red barn became a well known land mark and is still standing today. Nellie's dream of a new house was never to be. Their youngest child, Alberta, was born in July of that year, only to lose a Father she would never know five months later. Will passed away on December 2nd, 1927 at the age of forty-three and rests in Hazel Bluff Cemetery. Nellie remained on the farm with her seven children, doing a majority of the hard work herself with help from the occasional hired man. Her nephew, Archie Howie (who still resides at Hazel Bluff) was a great help to her during this time, as he was to her eldest teenage son, Freeman, who tried to become "the man of the house" at aged twelve. To ensure her family had food for the winter, many a sunny summer day would see Nellie along with her seven children, and various sizes of lard pails trudge off to the pasture to pick strawberries, raspberries, high bush cranberries and saskatoons. These days were made more pleasant with the partaking of a picnic-style feast. How nice it was to sit in the cool shade and run your bare feet through

the long blades of un-cut grass? Later in the fall an excursion of great magnitude to us children took place when we all piled into the democrat and took off for Colinton to pick blueberries. This time of year also saw us in the muskeg, feeling the cool moss on our feet and enjoying the fragrance of moss and pines while we picked low-bush cranberries. These fruits, along with vast garden produce, enabled Nellie to put down her required 1000 quarts of preserves each year.

Nellie had a great deal of vitality, energy and resilience. She was active in the Rebecca Lodge, the U.F.W.A., the Wheat Pool, the W.A., the organizing of the Agriculture Society and the Co-Op. With all these activities, Nellie not only had time for her family but also for friends, relatives and neighbors who needed help. One could always tell where she was working at the Westlock Sports Days by stopping and listening for her distinctive laughter. Her love of dancing was not deterred by her large family. We all have fond memories of getting into our best "bib and tucker" and going by democrat or sleigh, depending on the weather to a dance in the old U.F.A. Hall in Westlock or to the Hazel Bluff Hall. The younger children were tucked in under coats, put out of the way under tables or benches, while the older ones were lucky enough to stay up and dance with the adults, and EVEN eat midnight lunch with them. If a young one awoke and became restless, usually some kind man like "Uncle Art Edgson" would carry them around on his shoulders while he danced with their Mother.



Wood Family — Freeman and Allen, Alberta, Alma, Gladys.

In 1938, Nellie left the farm to work in Edmonton. By this time, Freeman had married Gladys Johnson of Rossington and they stayed on the farm. Gladys was working in Kimberly, B.C. and Phyllis had married Roy Lassey and moved to Edmonton. Earle was working near Fort Saskatchewan and Allan

remained in Westlock. Alma and Alberta went to Edmonton with their Mother where they continued their education. Nellie renewed her friendship with George Beaton of Clyde and they were married in 1941. Alberta returned to Clyde with her Mother. Here Nellie continued her involvement in Church and Community organizations, and of course her always helping hand to neighbors and relatives until her death in 1949 at the age of fifty-six. She rests beside Will in the Hazel Bluff cemetery. Gladys stayed in B.C. where she met and married Bill Dolan. Of the five daughters they raised, four remain in B.C. and one in Alberta.

Gladys still resides in Fernie B.C.

Freeman and Gladys moved from the farm into Westlock where they had the Cartage Business for many years. Their children, Faye, Gloria and Bill took most of their education in Westlock, and Gaye married Mike Keller, R.C.M.P. who was stationed in Westlock at the time. After selling the Cartage business, Freeman drove the school bus for a number of years. He belonged to the Masonic Lodge and was very proud to have the apron which had belonged to his Father. (This has now been passed on to brother Earle) Freeman passed away in 1982, and having lived his entire life in Westlock will be remembered for his many acts of kindness.

Phyllis and Roy remained in Edmonton where Phyllis still resides, close to four of their six children. Her eldest two children now reside in B.C.

At the outbreak of World War II, Earle joined the Southern Alberta Regiment and spent most of the war years in action overseas. He had married Vera Lewis of Nanaimo, B.C. during this time and upon his return to Canada spent one year in Edmonton. They then moved to the coastal region of B.C. where they and their family of one son and one daughter still reside.

After finishing her education Alma worked in Edmonton where she met and married Clarence Kellner. Of their six children, two remain in Edmonton where Alma still resides, three in various parts of Alberta and one in B.C.

Allan served in the Special Service Forces during World War II where he was wounded in Italy and in France. Upon his return home, he worked at various jobs in Westlock and Edmonton until he re-enlisted. He had married Lillian Bernas while in Westlock and they had two sons and one daughter. The loss of their first son and Lil's untimely death at the age of thirty-one left a real void in Allan's life. He now resides in B.C. as do his son and daughter.

Alberta remained in Clyde until 1943 when she returned to Edmonton for further education. She worked in the city until 1948 when she married

Archie Maitland. They raised two boys and one girl on an acreage near Sherwood Park where they still reside. Their children remain close by in Sherwood Park, Airdrie and Edmonton.

As in all families our good intentions of compiling an accurate factual family history have not materialized. Without Freeman's great memory for actual dates, times and places etc. we have only been able to compile this from our own records and memories.

## **Dorothy Louise Woodman (nee Pybus) 1918-1974**

**by Lorne Clapperton**

Dorothy (Pybus) Woodman was born November 2, 1918 in Empress, Alberta, daughter of a Methodist minister. The family, which moved frequently during Dorothy's childhood, consisted of her father and mother, George and Grace Pybus, as well as Dorothy's two brothers Gordon and Willard. They lived in Kitscoty, Wainwright, Daysland and Carstairs where Dorothy attended high school.

Dorothy began her post-secondary education at Mount Royal College in Calgary, pursuing a general arts programme. Then in 1937 she attended Camrose Normal School and taught school for one year in a one-room school house near Cremona, Alberta.

In 1939, Dorothy continued her arts programme in classics and English at the University of Alberta where she renewed her acquaintance with Frank Leslie Woodman, a captain in the army and a medical student. Frank and Dorothy were married on July 2, 1943 at Carstairs, Alberta.

After spending one year in Edmonton and some time in Chicago, Illinois while Dr. Woodman specialized in radiology, the couple moved to Westlock. From 1946 until 1954, Dr. Woodman was associated with the Whissel Clinic. In November, 1953 he contracted polio and died in January, 1954, leaving Dorothy with two young children, Gordon and Joan.

Following her husband's tragic death, Dorothy began a teaching career in Westlock High School that continued from 1954 to her death in 1974. Her natural love of English and its writers made her the first choice as head of the department teaching English 30 and History of English Literature as well as many other courses. A traditionalist, she nevertheless instituted many innovations in the teaching of her favourite subject. She fought strongly for these changes which she felt were important for her students, but opposed some other changes that were sweeping Alberta during her career, such as semestered classes and longer class periods, which she felt were ill-suited to the proper study of English.

As a staff member, Dorothy was admired and loved by teachers and students alike. Her calm se-



renity and gracious manner influenced many who might otherwise acted irrationally. She was a strong supporter of school athletics and often accompanied the teams on visits to other schools.

Mrs. Woodman was also highly respected in the community through her work in women's organizations, and particularly as an active member of the United Church. For many years she was the church organist and choir leader. Her keen interest in books and the needs of people led Dorothy to the public library, where she was a long time member of the board, filling the position of Chairman or Secretary at various times. It was through very hard work on the part of Dorothy and many others, that the library has become such a real asset to the Town of Westlock.

Summers were for travel during her later years when her children were grown. She was planning a trip to Russia to visit her brother, Willard, who was working for the Canadian Government grain commission in that country when she was struck down by cancer.

An illustration of the dedication to duty of this fine teacher occurred in June, 1974. Although suffering terribly, she nevertheless finished marking her final exams and submitted the marks for approval to the school office before she would permit her family to place her in hospital.

Her death in July, 1974, was a terrible blow to the teachers, her other friends and the school children she taught. She will be long remembered for her spirit, courage and enthusiasm for life. As a friend was heard to remark as she watched Dorothy leave a gathering at a school meeting, "Now there goes a real lady". Indeed.

## History of Sam Yeomans Sr And Family by Jim Yeomans

Sam Yeomans was raised and worked in England until about 1907. He was married and had three children when he decided to go to New Zealand to work on the railway which was under construction at the time. On arriving he had to take a physical which he failed lacking one-half inch in height. There were all kinds of jobs available so he spent some time working in the gold fields and other odd jobs.

Another son, Sam Jr., was born into the family while in New Zealand. When Sam Jr. was old enough to stand travelling Dad thought it was time to see more new country, so he went to Australia and then back to England where I, Jim, was born in 1909. Dad was not satisfied yet so in 1910 he started on his trip to Canada.

The family consisted of wife Elizabeth, son



Grandma and Grandad Yeomans.

Charlie, two daughters May and Winnifred and sons Sam Jr. and I, Jim.

Arriving in Edmonton Dad soon found work in the coal mines at Cardiff, where he worked until he bought and 'improved' a quarter of land in 1914. This was the S.E. ¼-16-58-26W of 4. It had a house and a barn with about thirty acres of land broken.

The livestock consisted of three horses, four cows and a flock of chickens. The farm was not too productive yet so Dad worked in the Cardiff mine in the winters to help out financially.

In the fall of 1916 he joined the 149th battalion out of Edmonton. He didn't return until sometime after the war ended as he was in hospital with malaria and was kept there until fully recovered. On returning home he was very pleased that the farm had prospered for his wife and two young sons. Dad was always active where improvements to the district were concerned. He was road foreman for many years and also was a trustee on the Vermillion Springs School.



The Sam and Lu Yeomans family on their 40th anniversary.

He continued to farm with the boys until 1934 when Mother and Dad moved into Pickardville. They both passed away in the forties and are buried in the Pickardville Cemetery.

Charlie joined the 94th regiment when he was sixteen years old, under age but the officials didn't question him too much as he was a husky fellow. He was overseas until the end of the war, returning with an English bride. He bought the quarter of land west of our home place where he farmed and raised a family of one girl and two boys. Later he moved to the Jarvie area and then to the Langley Prairie, B.C. area where he and his wife retired.

May married John Newton from Biggar, Saskatchewan where they lived for a few years, returning to this area to buy the S.E. ¼-9-58-26-4 where they farmed and John did carpenter work in the area. In 1934 they moved to Jasper Place where he was able to get larger building jobs. Here they raised a family of eight children. In the early forties his health began to fail and they moved to Victoria B.C. where John passed away in a few years. May is living in a Senior Citizen Lodge in Victoria and is in fair health.

Winnie married Sid Phillips who farmed two miles north of home N.E. ¼-21-58-26-4. They had a family of five who got their early schooling at the Vermillion Springs School. They sold the farm and equipment and moved to Victoria where they still live, now in a Senior Citizens Lodge.

Sam Jr.'s story will be found elsewhere in this book.



Sam and Lu Yeoman's on their 40th anniversary.

I, Jim, remember the years following 1920. The crops were very good, prices were fair and the farmers were beginning to prosper. New homes and farm buildings were built on many of the homesteads and also a few new cars came into the district. In the fall of 1929 the depression started and prices just kept falling. Wheat got to 15¢ to 20¢ a bushel at one time, oats and barley 7 to 9¢ and eggs 5¢ a dozen.

In the early thirties I married Marion Manning and we farmed the home place for several years. Times were slow on the farm and in the fall of 1936 we moved to Vancouver. Times were not much better there but we managed to live and raise a family of two girls, by working at odd jobs and working on a fishing boat.

I have moved around B.C. from Vancouver, Victoria, Langley Prairie, Abbotsford, Osoyoos, Okanagan Falls and Williams Lake. I am now retired and living in Keremeos.

## The Yeoman's Story

by L. Yeomans

This is the story of Sam and Lu Yeomans who live on S.E. 16-58-26 in the Pickardville, Westlock Municipality. Samuel Arthur Yeomans was born in New Zealand in 1907, fifth child of Sam Sr. and Elizabeth Yeomans. His parents left New Zealand for England, their home land when Sam was not much more than two years old. A year later they sailed for Canada and settled in Manitoba. From there they came to Cardiff, Alberta and later settled on SE 16-58-26 which became known as the home farm. They led the life of all pioneers sharing the hardships, heartaches and pleasures common to them all.



Mrs. Sam Yeomans and Jim going to church.

Sam attended school at Vermillion Springs School. The antics the boys were involved in are almost unbelievable — from the old swimming pool to plans of blowing up the school.

On December 24, 1931 Sam married a teacher



from the Elk Park School named Ethel Cummings known as Lu. Lu was born at Wetaskiwin on November 1, 1906. She was raised in the Lone Ridge district west of Wetaskiwin — attended Wetaskiwin High School and teacher training at Camrose Normal School. Here she met a life long friend Marge Critchlow. Later Lu came north of Edmonton to visit Marge. She later taught school and met Sam. Sam and Lu spent their first year in a log cabin on a farm which Sam had rented. It was a mile north of his folks. Later they moved to a farm near the Alexander Indian Reserve at Riviere Qui Barre. They moved in the spring. The road was impassable for a car, so we



Sam Yeomans, Sr., clearing land on his homestead.

went on a load of hay. Lu had a small baby in her arms. In moving the poultry, the upper deck of the wagon gave way, which was loaded with chickens, and killed the gobbler which was a passenger on the lower deck. This was a near tragedy. They lived here for three years and then moved back to the Pickardville district. In the fall of 1936 they moved to the home farm and are still there semi-retired.

Sam and Lu had a family of seven, namely, starting with the oldest, Lois — deceased at thirteen, Charles — Oilman. He now operates his own shake mill. He married Greta Henderson from Hythe. They live on Vancouver Island near Campbell River. They have three sons.

Jay is a heavy duty mechanic. He married Rose Steoanyk from Lac La Biche. They live in Pickardville. They had one son (deceased) and one daughter who lives in Edmonton.

Allan is a Tool Push in the oil field. He married Lorraine Newberry from Rochester and they live in Tilley. They have two sons.



Sam and Jim Yeomans, 1918.

Carole is a Registered Nurse. She married Jack Matear. Jack spent his early childhood in the Pickardville District. His Grandfather Jim Matear was a pioneer of this district. His farm was located three miles from Pickardville corner. Matear corner on the Riviere Qui Barre Road (now paved) is a tribute to his memory. Jack and Carole live in Toronto. They have three daughters.

Sandra is a hair dresser. She married Walter Hudson of Jasper where they now live. They have two sons and one daughter.



New barn (Yeomans) erected by neighbors after old barn was destroyed by fire.

Glen is an I.B.M. instructor and operator for C.N. He married Evelyn McBride from Montreal. They live in Chateauguay near Montreal. They have one son and one daughter.

It would be a full book and then some to record the Yeomans' history. Here are a few items of interest. Sam served on the local School board and was President of the Farmers' Union. Lu has been a member of the Echo Hill Women's institute for almost fifty years. She served in all offices. She was also convenor of Mid Pembina Constituency W.I. for four years. She taught school in many local schools including Elk Park, Busby, Pickardville, Vermillion Springs, and Clyde.

In the early 1950's the coming of power brightened up their life.

All the family came home to celebrate their fiftieth anniversary in 1981 and sent them off to New Zealand and Australia.

Sam and Lu are now semi-retired on the home farm, enjoying the good things of life.

## **The Zaczkowski Story**

**contributed by Jenny Sterling from information received from Rosalie Murfitt**

Johnny and Leo Zaczkowski came from Minnesota in the early 1900's. They homesteaded on the NE¼ 36-59-26-W4. There they built a small log shack and began to develop a farm in this raw land with great expectations. At that time there were no food supplies any nearer than Morinville or Edmon-

ton. They had better equipment than most, including a steam engine, a threshing outfit and breaking ploughs with which they did much custom work for neighbours round about. In a year or two they built a fine frame house and were joined by brother Ed and his wife Annie. Annie kept house for them for some time until they moved to their own homestead one half mile north of the home place. There they raised a family of two: Dorothy, now deceased, who later married Joe Jendrick, and Don, who remained a bachelor and still operates his father's farm.

Rosie, their sister, had arrived in the meantime and worked in the Shephard Hotel in Westlock for several years, and later her sister, Agnes, joined her there. Both were noted for their fine stitchery and their excellent cookery. Rosie returned to the farm to keep house for her brothers in the summertime and to cook at their lumber camp in the winter months. The camp was situated near Labeau's Lake and operated for many years but the cooking duties had to be taken over by someone else as the farming expanded and Rosie and Agnes were both required to operate the home farm household.

By this time they had acquired much land, ten or more quarters, and still more help was required. Another brother, Andrew, arrived and a still younger brother, Alois. Alois farmed the quarter west of the home place on which Edison School stood. He married a neighbor girl, Leona Gougeon. Alois put several years in on the Municipal Council, and also the Edison school board. Alois died in 1963.

Farming was a big enterprise for the Zaczkowski's, so more help was required. Walter Chepil came from Poland in 1927 and spent his entire lifetime with them. He had a way with animals, in those days much horse power was needed, so they were his responsibility. Also the milk cows were his great pride and joy, not forgetting all the farm cats and dogs. He used to play the mouth organ at home house parties. He owned and operated the NE¼ 34-59-26-W4 for many years, finally selling it to Mr. Lewko. Walter still resides on the Zaczkowski homestead at time of writing.

John Seckney came from Czechoslovakia in 1931 and spent the rest of his life here, also. His wife, Annie, joined him in 1937 and assisted with the household duties, along with Rosie and Agnes. This couple was blessed with one daughter, Rosalie, who brightened up the household among all her elders. She later married Stuart Murfitt and now lives in Westlock where she is employed as secretary for St. Mary Separate School. They have a little daughter, Linda.

John Seckney bought the SE¼ 1-60-26-W4, one half mile north of the home place but never resided



L to R: Rosie, Andrew and Agnes Zaczkowski.





Zaczkowski family. Rosie, Andrew, Ed, Johnny, Agnes, Alois and their father and sister.

there. He died in 1971. Annie, his wife, still makes her home on the Zaczkowski farm.

John Heusserer came from Germany in 1932. He owned a farm at Fawcett but sold it later. He purchased the NW¼ 13-60-26-W4 nearer home and operated it for many years. He spent his entire life with the Zaczkowski family, passing away in 1976.

There were others, too, who came and went on this busy farming operation, but these people were the ones who made up the Zaczkowski household.

Butchering days were the busy ones. They would butcher twelve pigs and one steer in one day, at the end of which would be a store of hams and sausage. Canning from their huge garden kept them busy. Picking blueberries and other wild fruits kept a well stocked larder in this well organized operation. Agnes was always the manager of these food preparations and many were the beautiful meals prepared by Agnes, Rosie and Annie and served to friends and neighbors over the years.

A new barn was built in 1930 to house the many teams of horses that supplied the power, until they changed to tractor power. A beautiful new house was erected in 1939. The first frame house was moved to Westlock where it still is in very good condition in the residential area.

After the deaths of Johnny and Leo, Andrew took over the management of the farms for twenty-three years.

Leo passed away in 1926 at age 43.

Johnny passed away in 1928 at age 48.

Andrew passed away in 1951 at age 56.

Agnes passed away in 1966 at age 68.

Ed passed away in 1972 at age 84.

Alois passed away in 1963 at age 70.

Rosie passed away in 1982 at age 91.

They were all good farmers and played life's role well indeed. They were well respected by all, and made many friends. All are resting in the Clyde Cemetery with the exception of Alois who is buried in the Westlock Roman Catholic Cemetery. The others were all members and supporters of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Clyde, over the years.

## Rudolph Zurfluh

I was born on February 25, 1913 to a pioneer Swiss couple who came to this county from Switzerland and homesteaded 12 miles south east of Stettler. My father and Carl Stettler were school chums. The town of Stettler was named after him.

I was born on the homestead, and had three sisters and two brothers, all born on the homestead.

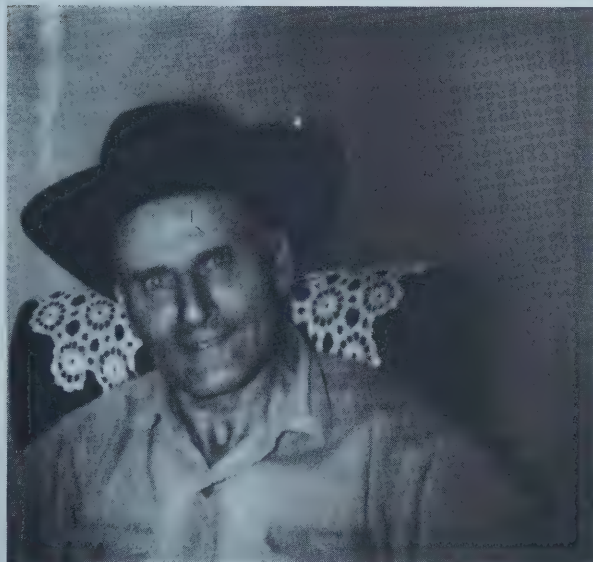
I went to a country school named Manthano, which was a mile and a half away — quite a walk for a young boy. I completed by Grade X, and that fall I worked on my dad's threshing outfit. I then went to work for a farmer east of Camrose.



Rudolph and Louisa Zurfluh and children Marlin and Albert.

In the spring of 1930 I arrived in Westlock and obtained a job with Mr. James Gilbert Adkins for the summer months. I worked on the Albert Bruder threshing outfit that fall. When threshing was finished, I went back to Camrose, bought a team and sleigh, built a little shack on the sleigh and set out for Cold Lake, arriving there on Christmas Eve. I parked my outfit on the north shore of Cold Lake and helped a fisherman with his nets. Fishing was very poor that year so I received no pay. In late January my shack and sleigh burned down while I was away.

I then managed to get a job at a sawmill, skidding logs with my team. I also worked on the mill for two months. After spring break-up I was paid twenty dollars and decided to go back to Camrose. I didn't feel like riding, so I walked behind my team, sleeping on the side of the road at night. I arrived at my destination on the fourth day.



Rudolph Zurfluh.

I then obtained a job with a farmer, driving a six horse team and milking eleven cows. My work day always began at 5 a.m. and usually didn't finish until 8 p.m. For this I was paid a wage of \$25 a month. As the drought and depression happened the same year, I remember threshing for nine different farmers and only got four days threshing in. That winter I worked for my room and board.

The following spring I decided to go back to Westlock and I worked for Gil Adkins again for the summer. That fall I filed on a homestead four miles south of Fort Assiniboine. I built a log house on it and then went to Goose Lake to fish. I had a team and sleigh. Fishing was good there and I peddled the fish between Barrhead and Westlock, selling them for ten

cents a fish. Fish was my main diet that winter, although I did a lot of hunting but never seemed successful. It was hard to make a living.

In the spring I came back to Mr. Adkins again and as he was ailing I did the farming. I also did about two hundred acres of brushing for various farmers from 1932 to 1937, mostly for Mr. Adkins, Andy Smith, Mr. Junk who ran an elevator in Westlock and who had a farm north of Agnew's Corner near Rossington, and also for Joe Baxandall. I also worked on Andy Smith's threshing outfit for three falls. In 1933 both Gil Adkins and his son, Martin, passed away, leaving his wife and four daughters; Louisa, Bertha, Eunice and Lois.

In the spring of 1934 I leased the half section from Mrs. Adkins until fall, when I bought a Model T Ford pick-up and went to Lac La Biche to fish, which I peddled between Westlock and Edmonton.

I then took an option on the Alex Hunter place, north of Rossington, next to Larry Hunter and Earl Robins. I spent that winter working for Joe Baxandall.

In 1938 I married Louisa Adkins. We built a small home on the Gil Adkin's homestead. During the next seven years we had two sons, Martin Gilbert and Albert Christian. We farmed and raised about 300 hogs a year. On March 23, 1946, Louisa passed away.

After her death I leased the school section on which there was a relief camp, where I lived in the main house for the next four years.

Following this, I bought the Fred Westgate farm on the north side of Westlock. I married Evelyn Stewart but am divorced. She had one son, Marvin, and we had two daughters, Sharon Louise, now Mrs. Eric Stromberg, and Shirley Lavina, now Mrs. Doug Moffat. I built two houses and Eric and Sharon bought a home and have been living next door to my house. Shirley and Doug are living in my other house in the same yard. They have three daughters, while Sharon and Eric have two daughters and one son. Martin is married and has two sons and a daughter. Albert has three sons and is working for A.G.T. in Edmonton. Martin is working in a factory in Chatham, Ontario.

I still have three sisters living in Stettler. In 1973 my brother, Ernest passed away and the following year Albert also passed away. In 1975 my stepson, Marvin and his two children were killed in a car accident east of Busby.

In the spring of 1980 I had a sale. My farm is now rented to Jubilee Farms, which is run jointly by Wayne Forbes and Ken Stanley. My farm is annexed to the Town of Westlock.

I keep fairly busy with my family. I belong to the Westlock Legion and the Westlock Elks Lodge. A lot



of time is spent doing volunteer work and I go up town for coffee with friends every day. I am now 70 years of age and hope to spend the remaining years of my life living in my own home with my family close by.

## People We Remember

### Memories of the Past

written by Mrs. Ernie Hunt in 1959

I came to the Pembina District on August 27, 1909 and worked at the Pembina Store for one year. I only went to Hazel Bluff when I got a chance to ride with someone who was going there.

The first Sunday I was at the church, Mr. Telfer was the preacher. Professor Haynes played the organ and Mr. Mac Jorgenson sang. The seats in the church were just long boards, like benches.

Later that fall, a young minister, Mr. Gohegan, came to the store to buy the first paint for the church.

**Rev. I. N. Hughson**

When Hazel Bluff church was built, the mission field in this area comprised thirteen appointments. I was stationed with another probationer, Douglas H. Telfer, to serve this area.

I was riding my trusty horse "Fleet" on my way from Belvedere to Hazel Bluff to attend an evening Y.P.S. meeting at the new church. As I rode along, I passed the Jorgenson homestead where Bob was at work out in the back field, breaking up new land among the tangled roots and stumps with his yoke of brindled oxen. Swarms of mosquitoes and horse flies so tormented the oxen that it was all Bob could do to keep them from bolting away. I hoped Bob would be at our meeting. He was!

Many years later, when I attended an anniversary, there was this same "Bob" who was now Minister of Health and Welfare with the Alberta Government.

May we all have a share of scattering the sunlight of God's grace wherever we go.

**Mrs. Charles Kinsella**

Mr. Telfer came across the river from his home to have supper with us. As we drove to Percy Andrew's home for the meeting, we could hardly see for mosquitoes.

When Mr. Telfer moved to the homestead we met at the Riverdale Schoolhouse. Mr. Smith, the Presbyterian minister, came to enquire about holding services. This gave some of us an idea.

I asked Will Bangs if he would donate a thousand feet of lumber to build a church. Four days later, we had twelve thousand feet of lumber promised. Mr. Telfer was delighted and secured the land. Mr. C. Jorgenson was the foreman carpenter.

**Mrs. Robert Wheatley**

Mr. Douglas Telfer called a meeting of the ladies of the church at my home a year before the church was built. Douglas told us of the duties of the organization — there were about thirty ladies present. I went to the kitchen to make tea and when I returned, I had been elected president.

I protested but Douglas said, "You will learn by doing, Mrs. Wheatley" and that was that!

**Mrs. Evelyn Baker**

The very first Sunday after my husband and I, with three small children, came to the homestead, we went to church, four and a half miles away, by lumber wagon. We regularly attended the Sunday morning service because the children were small, but there was an evening service held on alternate Sundays.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Wilson, who homesteaded the farm where Robert and Maureen Olsen now live, went with us to church. They would not hear of us driving home before having dinner with them. Mrs. Wilson always had a good hot dinner.

One Sunday Mrs. Gordon Guest and I were sitting in the choir. In those days the collection plate was passed around in the choir and between us we dropped the collection plate. Oh, my! They say money was made round to go 'round, and it sure went around.

**Mrs. Bert Lyons.**

My pleasant memory is of a picnic held May 24, 1915 by the young people of the Epworth League. We met on the farm where the golf course is now located. That year there was no green grass, nor green leaves on the trees. We had a delicious lunch at noon on tables set up for the occasion.

**H. Ray Hide**

Rev. Bowen was left with a family of small children when his wife died in 1920. One Sunday he had two of his small boys, Ralph and Tommy, I believe, with him at the Hazel Bluff service. He had them sitting in the left front seat. During the sermon, the boys got a little out of hand. He stepped down from the pulpit, boxed their ears and set them up on the seat again. He then carried on with his sermon as though nothing had happened.

During Mr. Bowen's time my father used to take up the offering but did not pass the plate to the choir. One Sunday, Mr. Bowen picked up the plate after my Dad had set it down and passed it to the choir. This example led my father to include the choir after that.

**Mrs. Louise (Leake) Adkins**

My memory goes back many years to when Mr. Edwin Stanley led our young peoples meetings. We met on Sunday evenings. Mr. Stanley, with his

cheery smile and kindly way, taught us many vital lessons. He always had an interesting illustration to bring home these truths.

We all joined heartily in singing the beloved old hymns and took turns helping with the devotional service.

#### **Mrs. C. A. Allen**

It was the year 1928. I had just married Cliff Allen, the son of one of the early settlers. Hazel Bluff was to be our new home.

Coming from the city, I was expecting difficulty in making new friendships, but many friendly folk came to welcome me, for which I have always been very grateful.

Many years later, some of you came to Edmonton on a very bad January day to attend my husband's funeral. You showed your concern in thoughtful ways that touched me and my family greatly.

#### **Mrs. D. K. Allen**

I recall the far-famed chicken suppers, the enjoyable summer picnics, the interesting young peoples programs, the good works and the missionary interest of the W.A., but the memory I cherish most is the warmhearted, friendly spirit of the people themselves.

#### **Rev. J. Thom Gordon**

No minister would ever want to erase memories of Hazel Bluff church people. The roll call of their names is very dear to me.

Sunday school, Church Worship, W.A., Y.P.S. and choir were outstanding for their dependability.

Picnics by the river are among my memories — fun, gaiety and relaxation. Nor were the church founders forgotten. The cemetery was well kept.

#### **Rev. Wallace Moss**

One of your Hazel Bluff young men went away to the big city, and from there, some time later, he wrote me a letter of appreciation for help received from our services in Hazel Bluff. He said that many times he was discouraged and bewildered by the problems of life, but God spoke to him through the sermon and met some personal problems. I have kept his letter. Such memories are priceless.

#### **Jessie (Guest) Van Sickle**

Many years ago there was a debate at the Hazel Bluff church between Bob Jorgenson (bachelor) and Archie Brown (married). The subject of the debate was "Resolved that married life is more desirable than single life". The bachelor took the affirmative and Mr. Brown the negative. That was an amusing evening.

#### **Rev. Winfield D. Race**

The first wedding which took place in Hazel

Bluff church during my pastorate was that of Donald Gordon Baker and Dorothy Margaret Burchett. It was on December 28, 1942, and we were favored with one of those mild winter days which can make the Christmas-New Year season most enjoyable, especially when a wedding is included. The great success of the venture gave other people ideas. But we all know that Alberta weather can play tricks. This time it did it with a vengeance. Here my memory plays me a little false. I thought it was the wedding of Joseph Marvin Baker and Ida Evelyn Broughton, which was on the exact anniversary of the other one, December 28, 1943, but my records tell me that Joe and Ida were married in the Westlock Church. Probably then it was the wedding of David Cross and Shirley Ileen Reed, which did take place in the Hazel Bluff church on December 26, 1944. I seem to remember that it was in the Hazel Bluff church, and I know that it was consciously planned for a date like Don and Dorothy's. But, oh! what weather. No bride ever had a colder, stormier day, and waiting in the cold, cold vestibule in her filmy garments, I thought she (to say nothing of her attendants) would freeze to death before we could get her moving up the aisle. But I know there had been warmth and happiness in all these homes in spite of the chilly circumstances in which one of them was established.

#### **Rev. J. W. Bainbridge**

The outstanding memory I have of the work at Hazel Bluff church is the commencement of the renovating and repairing and re-establishment of the edifice on Thursday, April 17, 1954.

At 8:15 a.m. I arrived at the site to discover Nard Shaver, Manford Reed and their team of ten men already on the roof tearing off shingles. By 9:15 a.m. the team had increased to twenty men.

Down at the hall, a group of women, under the leadership of Mrs. McKibbin, were preparing for a coffee break and meals for the day.

That program of real enthusiastic work continued for about two weeks and was an example of community effort.

#### **Mrs. Laura Bainbridge**

I think with admiration of the choir at Hazel Bluff; not so much for the quality of their performance, though at times that was very gratifying, but for the determination, faithfulness and self-sacrifice of the members as they battled side roads and weather to arrive for practice and Sunday Service. Many sweet voices and musical abilities were discovered in this rural area.

The W.A. meetings gave me a thrill, not only for the large attendance, but for the refreshingly large proportion of younger women who perforce had to bring their pre-school children along. Much good



work was accomplished in a whole-hearted atmosphere.

#### **Walter G. Crone**

Members of the choir were always ready to greet the minister on his arrival and prepare with him to enter the sanctuary in procession. Almost invariably Mrs. Cohoe was at the piano, but Mrs. McKibbin or Mrs. Olson or one of several others could be counted on to play.

#### **Mrs. Hazel (Brown) Anderson**

A few words of tribute to Billy Baker for his many years of faithful service. Even the morning when he tripped over the stove poker and Willie, the collection plate and contents went flying!

#### **Lil (Brown) Harvey**

A tribute should be given to Maisie (Donnelly) Platt for her assistance in controlling mosquitoes during our many wonderful times at C G I T Camp. She toured the tents with a smudge pail, while the eyes of the girls smarted and they coughed in the smoke, but it was welcome relief.

Written in 1979.

#### **Rev. W. P. Smetherom**

My memories of Hazel Bluff congregation are all pleasant. We were often invited to dinner and to spend the afternoon with friends there. I remember the flowers of Mrs. Charles Baker; Mr. Archie Brown, a faithful worker and good friend; Mr. William Baker, Mr. Frank Hasse, Mrs. Bella Lyons and many others.

There was a good choir, and the Tyros, under the leadership of Mrs. Lange, and the C G I T led by Mrs. Grace Campbell and Vera Lardner. I met with many friends for Bible study — a devoted and dedicated group.

#### **Rev. Harold McDonald**

Hazel Bluff was the first church we stopped at on our way in and you are close to our hearts. I hope that someday we may worship with you once more.

#### **Rev. T. Kolber**

Marie and I often talk about the time we spent on the Westlock charge, and reminisce about some very pleasant memories.

#### **Update 1982**

In 1963 the Eastburg congregation joined with that of Hazel Bluff. The Eastburg church was moved to the present location on the grounds where it serves as a Christian Education Centre.

In 1981 further changes were made at the site. A beautiful pair of wrought-iron gates, set in pillars of natural stone, were erected at the cemetery entrance. Mrs. Andrew Van Nieuvenhuyse had this work done as a memorial to her late husband who is buried in the cemetery.

During that year also, negotiations were made

with Alberta Transport for the removal of the church from its foundation at its former site to the new location parallel to Highway 18 and on church property entirely. The move was made with remarkable ease with very little damage in December, 1981. The church does not appear prominently on the sky line as it once did but it looks well in its new setting.

In June, 1982 a new piano was purchased for use in the sanctuary. The older piano was moved to the former Eastburg church.

In the fall of 1982, cement steps were installed at the doors and a cement walk and ramp connects them. Wrought-iron railings made by John Brand were added for safety and appearance to the steps and ramp.

A fresh coat of white paint, and black trim to the window and door frames, was applied by Robert Olsen in the fall.

As we approach the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of Hazel Bluff church, the Christian work ideals continue in the lives of the people.

#### **Amos**

Mr. Amos owned a photo studio in Westlock for many years. Many pictures in this book will be the work of Westlock's busy photographer.

#### **Betson**

Mr. and Mrs. William (Bill) Betson filed on a homestead in 1914, S.E. 19-60-26W4 and later purchased more land in the area. He was a keen livestock man and entered animals in the Westlock Fair. They raised three foster children.

#### **Baldwin, John and Jennie**

John Baldwin and his wife Jennie farmed one half mile south of Edison School, directly across the road from the Garrisons. Mr. Baldwin will be remembered by those who knew him, driving his well harnessed Percheron horses, his coon skin coat and smoking a large cigar. Everything he did he did well and loved Alberta, while his wife preferred to spend some time back in California, from where they had come. They had no family.

#### **Campbell**

Lorne and Eileen Campbell lived in Westlock in early years. Lorne operated the first grain elevator, the United Grain Growers. They owned a farm west of the Rossington bridge, but moved to town for elevator work. Lorne later moved to Edmonton, still doing elevator work, travelling for the United Grain Growers. They had five children, Aubrey, Mabel, Katherine, Lorna and Don.

#### **Chapman Brothers**

The Chapman's had a harness shop in Westlock.

They then had a general store in the Rexton Block, across the corner from McTavish's Store. He sold to Don Stanton. The Chapman's lived in many Alberta Towns, settling in Lacombe. Mrs. Chapman died in 1983, leaving her husband, Arthur, a daughter and two sons all living in Lacombe.

### **Curlett**

Harry Curlett owned the Westlock Hotel for a time. He sold Real Estate and handled International Machinery. He was a fine floor manager at dances and also was a square dance caller. He had one son Colgan, who lives in Edmonton.

### **Clarke**

Wolsley and Nellie Clarke operated a small restaurant business near the railway station. He then moved to just north of the hotel where he had a very successful business. He later moved across the street and operated his restaurant business on a larger scale. This restaurant is still in use. They had one son Bill, who took his schooling in Westlock. Mr. Clarke was on the Westlock Council for a time.

### **Dezall**

John and Marion Dezall owned a hardware store just south of the railway station. Mr. Dezall operated the Westlock Post Office in a room adjoining the hardware store to the south.

### **Fender**

Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Fender spent several years in Westlock. He was an International Harvester Company dealer. He spent some time on town council and was an ardent curler, both here in Westlock and later gained prominence among Edmonton curlers.

### **Feldman**

Joe operated a large red barn just west of the Creamery. It not only housed all the horses passing through with loads, but the barn was a resting place for many travellers with no place to spend the night.

### **Geddes**

The Geddes drug store was on the opposite side of main street close to the Bank of Montreal. Dr. and Mrs. Geddes had two sons, Bryant and Lynne.

### **Griswold**

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Griswold homesteaded west of Westlock and later moved to Westlock to operate a Real Estate and Insurance business. Their four children, Art, Eleanor, Warren and Fred, attended Westlock School. Art became a Druggist in Edmonton. Eleanor married George Reid, after several years in the Westlock Telephone Exchange.

### **A. Gross**

Mr. and Mrs. Gross lived north of Westlock on the farm now owned by John Scott. He did barbering first of all in the Sheppard hotel, later opening his own barber shop and pool hall, north of the Bank of Montreal.

### **Hergott**

Mr. and Mrs. Hergott managed the Sheppard Hotel for many years. Their three sons, Clarence, Leonard and Cecil went to school in Westlock. Leonard was a Westlock teacher for several years. Clarence and his wife Evelyn were killed in a car accident near their home at Bentley, Alberta.

### **Jack — Tom and Bessy**

Tom Jack filed on his homestead N.E. 4-60-26W4 in 1903, just north of where the present Westlock Farm Supply is today. His wife, also from Scotland, joined him after his large house was built on the farm. They had one daughter, Doreen, who died at the age of three from diphtheria. They later moved to the West Coast.

### **McEwan Drugs**

A. R. McEwan and Mrs. McEwan were here from 1923 to 1928. They had a family of three, Archie, Betty and Allan. Allan was killed overseas. Archie became a dentist in Edmonton and is known to have patented several tools used in dentistry.

### **Murfitt**

W. James (Jimmy) and Celia (Rimmer) Murfitt were married in Edmonton. Jimmy, as he was well known, worked for Pat Burns in Edmonton, where he got his start in the meat market business. He decided to go into business for himself and bought Jack Malton's meat market in Westlock in 1918. Mr. and Mrs. Murfitt operated the meat market. Mr. Murfitt also travelled the country on a saddle horse, advancing to horse and buggy and then automobile, buying livestock. Mr. Murfitt sold his meat market to Maurice Cryderman in 1957. They became involved in the Insurance business in 1928. They also farmed a considerable amount of land, and this with livestock buying was their main interest. Mr. and Mrs. Murfitt had one son, James (Jimmy Jr.). Mr. Murfitt and son Jimmy have passed away, but Mrs. Murfitt is now residing in the Nursing Home in Westlock.

### **Nielson**

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Nielsen were residents of Westlock in the 1930's. Allan was a very good carpenter, building many of the Westlock residences still in use today. Mrs. Nielson was an excellent singer. They had two daughters, Anna and Lois. They later moved to the West Coast.



## Petit

Mr. and Mrs. Luke Petit owned a large amount of land in the Westlock area. They had no family. He often loaned money to farmers for land purchases. They built a fine home, the first to be installed with steam heat. The home still stands, now the property of the Marks Brothers.

## Paddy and Weiner

Paddy and Weiner were fur and cattle buyers in the area in the early days. They later moved to Edmonton to operate a fur buying office and the Weiner Shoe Store.

## Skinner and Pierce

The Pierce story appears on other pages of this book. Hec Skinner was in partnership in the Skinner and Pierce Hardware. Mr. Skinner moved to Ponoka and operated a hotel there.

## Steele — F. H. and Family

Farmer Steele was a real estate agent and Mayor of Westlock for several years. He operated the first undertaking parlor in the town and was a member of the first Consolidated School Board. The Steele family consisted of Russell, Cecil, Lance and Vera. Vera taught school for many years in Westlock. She married Jack Malton, who owned the first meat market in Westlock.

## Early Druggists in Westlock Lennox Tice

Lennox Tice, a tall bachelor, owned the first drug store in Westlock, on the corner south of George McTavish store. He always grew a fine garden and was interested in grains and grasses.



Stewart Hart and William Clark, two of the first settlers in the Pembina District.



Mrs. George Miller and her daughter Doris.



Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Betson, 1940. They lived north of Westlock.



Farm house of Luke Petit, now the home of Marvin Marks.



Magistrate Stutchbury.



L to R: Top row: Kathleen Collins, Lorna Wood, Blanche McRae, Joyce Stanton, Ada Westgate, Catherine Pierce, Catherine Campbell, Vera Holtan. Front row: Betty Hunter, Barbara Travis, Jean Kirby, Beth McCullough, Evelyn Jamieson, 1942.



Walter Westerman and wife Nellie with daughter Frances.





Paddy Armstrong. An early storekeeper at Edison.



Pioneers of 1903 — L to R: Mrs. Tessie Berry (West), Miss Daphne Garrison, Mrs. Edna Bennett (Ulm). The three ladies came to the Westlock district in the year 1903.



Jack McCrae and sister Jennie Hunt, 1960.



Clarence Hergott wedding in front of Sheppard Hotel, Westlock. Operated by Mr. Hergott.



John Schmidt, Agriculture Editor of the Calgary Herald; Carolann Johnson, Products Promotion Officer, Alberta Egg & Fowl Marketing Board; and Dr. Hugh Horner, Minister of Agriculture.



A picnic party on the old bridge on the Pembina River. Back row, L to R: Audrey Henson, Marion Bishop, Frances McLean, Alice McLean, Mrs. Wm. Jack, Hattie Warren, Fred Jack. Front, L to R: Hubert Bishop, Blair McLean, W. Foster, William H. Jack.

# Recollections and Reflections

## **The Great Santa Claus Caper in Westlock** by N. B. Crawford

Possibly ten or twelve days before Christmas, in either 1928 or 1929, a committee from the Elks Club in Westlock, met with my Father, C. A. Crawford, (owner of the Westlock Theatre). The purpose of the meeting was to arrange for a Saturday matinee picture show for all the school children of Westlock and district. The school busses were to bring the children to the theatre just before two p.m., and all the town children were to assemble there at the same time. The plan was, to await the arrival of Santa, who was to arrive by fast, horse-drawn sleigh, enter the theatre and from the stage, distribute a bag of "goodies" to every child, then the picture show would follow to complete the afternoon party. My Father thought this was a great idea, and told the Elks committee there would be no charge whatever for the show or use of the theatre.

Now the Elks had been planning this affair for some time and to make it authentic, had asked a Mr. Hughes, from Rossington, to be Santa. Mr. Hughes had the most beautiful white beard of any man around, and he consented at once. The next man approached was Joe Feldman, operator of the local Livery Stable. Joe was requested to supply and drive his most frisky team and fancy cutter, to deliver Santa to the theatre. Things were progressing fine until someone got the idea to tie or fasten deer-antlers to the horse bridles, just to complete the picture.

All systems were "Go" and at a few minutes before two o'clock, the sleigh (or cutter) was seen to leave the livery barn and start up First Street towards the awaiting crowd of children.

The street was a bit icy, the team was a bit frisky, and all might have gone well but for the deer antlers falling in different directions and frightening the horses out of their skulls. Joe Feldman was a skilled driver but a man can only do so much with a crazed team, pulling a light cutter on icy roads. On a scale of one to ten this runaway, now picking up speed, could be classed as a number nine. Some adults, seeing the

approaching sleigh, quickly took action and got the school children off the street onto the sidewalk, and many up the theatre steps, out of the way.

Santa and Joe swept past, horses plunging and the cutter swaying from side to side, Santa holding on for dear life and Joe doing all he could to slow things down and get the team under control. They travelled the full length of First Street before coming to a stop. Santa quickly left the sleigh and was given a lift back to the theatre by car!

He was soon on the stage handing out the bags of goodies to the boys and girls. To the best of my recollection, that was the way it happened on that eventful Saturday before Christmas.

All's well that ends well!

## **Backward Glances** by Gordon Hollingshead

There are many advantages to having Westlock for a home town, even if it is laid out on a bias relative to the rest of the country. The Hollingshead homestead as I fondly remember it, was named 'Trails End' by my father Archie and it lay on the eastern extremity of the town site adjacent to a field owned by Fred Westgate. Our lot line angled strangely along the field's edge allowing for a very large back yard which, typical of those early times, was largely devoted to growing vegetables for both summer and winter use. The Westgate field, much to Fred's chagrin no doubt, provided one of the larger playgrounds in Alberta, particularly when it was in crop. It was a great place to trample down the grain with paths and hidings spots and in recent years I have come to regard Fred Westgate as a man who had great tolerance.

By today's standards, my generation grew up with almost unlimited freedom. The N.A.R. line lay a mere two blocks to the north and provided a near endless potential for adventure, albeit dangerous, but never-the-less entertaining. One favorite pastime was catching moving freights leaving town and dropping off some distance out when one judged the train's





R to L: Clifford Ronden, Don Sutherland, Bob Watkins, Grant Wagner, Bruce Torrie, Don Henderson, Ian Gilchrist, Gordon Hollingshead, Dennis Hollingshead on shoulder, David Bentley and John Collins.

speed to be nearing a critical point for 'safe' departure. Imagine the reaction of parents and authorities to such mischief today.

The winter counterpart to this sport involved the local farmers who frequently delivered grain or other produce to town by sleigh and team. Seemingly the farmers never minded the toboggans, skis or hitchhikers clinging onto their sleighs as their teams trotted briskly out of town. Alas today the fear of accidents and ensuing legal action would preclude such dangerous fun even if the sleighs and horses had not long ago disappeared.

The railway was also a great outdoor laboratory for testing the properties of various metals such as iron nails, copper pennies or other odds and ends that could be flattened to a thin sheet by placing them between the shiny rails and the train wheels. We never had much cause for concern about derailments in those years simply because it had never happened in our locale. The dangers of these kind of shenanigans never entered our heads.

The stretch of track at the east end of town was separated from our residential area by a fairly heavy strip of bush and provided a natural dropping off spot for many transients travelling the line in search of work. I mostly remember their fare of navy beans and coffee boiling over an evening camp fire. Such a supper must have been a severe challenge to one's



Archie Hollingshead's home in 1938.

teeth as well as sense of taste. For these men, World War II was just around the corner and no doubt the deprivation and hardships of the depression years contributed greatly to the tough resourceful image of 'Johnny Canuck' when they shipped into the war theatre.

The depression years should have been called the 'hardship' years and there will still be many memories lingering today of those items that might better be forgotten. Still, from every adversity there springs the seed of opportunity or reward and if those days did little else, they drew people together in the common cause of surviving. I cannot recall the need to lock up homes when one was absent for the day or the weekend. There was a key to our house but it was rarely used as I remember. Needless to say, that is not the case these days. People were generally of the more friendly type possibly because everyone had a common denominator of some kind of misery or another to share. By today's standards of course, there was a lot of room for improvement, at least in the way of comforts and material possessions.

It seems hard to imagine the board sidewalks of yesteryear when one strolls along today's cement walks. Reflecting back yet further, it was a giant step forward to witness the construction of wooden walks to replace the deeply worn dirt paths that preceded them. Sidewalk replacements or repairs were always anticipated with eagerness by us youngsters as they represented opportunities (when school was out) for treasure hunts of coins that poor unfortunates had lost to the cracks between the boards. Such renovations were usually attended by the more enterprising youths who, with an eagle eye, would pounce on their treasures as the old boards were pried up by the town work crews.

There were moments of unforgettable drama such as when Herman Britell was launched on a maiden flight seated precariously amongst a maze of guy



R to L: Dr. Henderson, Don Henderson, Barry Pierce, Mrs. Pierce, Malcolm and Mrs. Henderson at back, Mrs. Gilchrist, Annabelle Gilchrist, Catherine Pierce, G. Gilchrist, Mary Henderson. Front five boys unknown.

wires and control cables on a training glider that he and friends had built during the preceding winter. Construction was carried out possibly in 1930 or 1931 in a garage (Smiths?) that was later replaced by Renaud's Hardware store. As I recall the incident, Britell and glider were towed aloft behind a car (possibly a Model 'A' Ford). It was a startling scene to behold, with the glider being yanked aloft . . . and descending almost vertically in what looked like a sure crash. By some great combination of skill and luck, Britell's flight ended without mishap although I don't think the glider made out so well. Years later I came upon the decaying remains of that once proud machine moldering in a pile out behind a shed on MacGregor's farm just west of town. Even then it was fascinating to note the careful and intricate construction of wing ribs and the like.

It was in those days that radio was beginning to have an impact on the frontier areas. Our family became the proud owner of a set made by Atwater-kent which served immediately to break the monotony of winter nights. Hockey night in Canada became a religion in our home on Saturday nights and my father, together with our neighbours, the Watkins, frequently sat glued to their chairs listening to Foster Hewitt paint word pictures of the action.

It was also about 1930 that Post and Gatty made their record round-the-world flight and I can vividly remember the hour by hour commentary of their progress on the radio as they flew towards Edmonton from northern Canada. It was a foggy day and as if by magic and right on cue, we heard the roar of their plane flying low over the town as they navigated along the railway tracks. Visibility was so poor that we could not see their plane even though it passed only two blocks away.

I still have some quite vivid recollections of my preschool days as I suppose everyone does. For one

thing, I remember that they used to make warmer summers and colder winters than they do today. I also remember that birthing was done in the home . . . possibly because hospital facilities were not sufficient and also because in those days it was not illegal. I can remember Mrs. Dinwoodie acting as a midwife and tending to our household affairs shortly after my sister Marguerite was born. It was a sunny morning in mid May and I could hear my new sister raising a considerable fuss. I was most concerned, particularly when told by Mrs. Dinwoodie that Marguerite was in the washing machine which was busily churning away in the middle of the room. I have remembered that traumatic event for fifty years, and I have yet to appreciate the humor of that particular situation.

With the coming of school days our family moved into a newly built house next door. Within a few short years my responsibilities were expanded to include pumping out water from water seepage in the basement in the summer, mowing the lawns and trimming hedges and year long tending to firewood needs for the kitchen stove. Winter time involved looking after the furnace located in the basement, which meant stoking it with coal and keeping the ashes cleaned out at the same time. Lest I considered these chores arduous, I was always made well aware of the load my country friends had to bear . . . year round. The point was well made.

Entertainment never seemed hard to come by in spite of the fact that television was still years away. Gilchrist's Creamery, located on what we called first street, was always a great place to go in the summer time, especially on hot days, with its ice house out back. It seemed like such a large, cavernous place, with its mountains of ice blocks covered with sawdust. As a year round entertainment centre, the adjoining buttermilk pond of the other side of the railway tracks was the principal skating rink until a proper skating rink was eventually established near the center of town. The latter smelled a lot better too, as a matter of fact. Woe betide the unfortunate who fell through one of the thin spots which resulted from warm effluent running into the pond on butter making days.

The Gordon Pierce family, having close family ties with the maritimes, were the recipient of gifts of maple sugar from eastern relatives who had access to that particular treat at sugaring-off time in the spring. On one occasion the Pierces sponsored a maple sugar taffy pull for a number of us neighbourhood youngsters. Melted maple sugar was poured on clean crisp snow and then stretched and pulled with much enthusiasm and glee.

It was not all happy moments though, as West-



lock periodically witnessed two particular terrors; run-away horses and fire. I am thankful for being a rare witness to the former. The fires which almost invariably seemed to happen at night drew the largest crowds. My earliest recollection of a bad fire was the burning down of Joe Feldman's livery stable. I reckon it marked the end of a particular era with the Edmonton to Barrhead highway having already ushered in local bus transportation. It was a familiar sight to witness Bill Seaton and his bus arrive and depart from the Westlock Hotel each morning and evening of the six work days per week. I used to marvel at his ability to chew gum constantly . . . no doubt in deference to some of his passengers who even that long ago, disapproved of the smoking habit.

It was also in those days that Wolsey Clark opened a restaurant between Curlett's Hotel and Ritz's Meat Market. On one of the rare occasions to which I can claim innocence, an event stands out clearly in my mind. There was an open space of perhaps fifteen or twenty feet separating the cafe from the hotel. This allowed for the installation of a large exhaust fan in the wall and near the ceiling of the cafe. Contrary to convention the fan was reversed, forcing air into the cafe from this open space, rather than exhausting the air to the outside as might be the normal case. It turned out to be one of those still, hot, lazy afternoons during summer holidays, when a couple of friends laid their hands on a clutch of rotten eggs discarded by the creamery. There was quite a commotion from within the cafe when several of these eggs were tossed into the fan. It was about that time that a popular saying came into prominence and I have always been satisfied that Westlock shared some responsibility for adding that colloquialism to our language.

Such were the early days in Westlock for me. With the coming of World War II and the completion of school days, associations were broken and friends were scattered across the country. I reckon however, that we were all very fortunate to have the privilege of calling Westlock our old home town. It gives me a special reason for being a proud Canadian.

## Homesteading 1880's

by Bella Lyons

Daniel McDougall came to Canada in the early 1880's to work in his Uncle's woollen mill as a handweaver (the work he had done in Scotland). There he met Elizabeth McCarter who was also a weaver. She had been born in Ontario of Scotch and Irish parents.

After a lengthy courtship, they were married in 1892 and lived in Rosebank, Ontario until 1899 when

woollen mills were being installed with different machinery and larger mills were buying out the smaller mills and hand weavers were being laid off, so they decided to move west. A year before, Mother's sister and mother had moved to Edmonton, so Father and Mother, with their four children, came west in April, 1899.

Mother was sick most of the way and Oh! such a slow trip. We were twelve hours on the train coming from Calgary to Strathcona (end of steel). Uncle had horses tied to a tree, just outside the Strathcona Station. I went on my first wagon ride in the April mud to Uncle's farm in Clover Bar, out on the old baseline. Such ruts; we were down on one side then down on the other side, and such hills at East Edmonton. There were three between Edmonton and where the B. A. Refineries are now.

That summer was one of our real wet ones and we were living in a sod roof shack, while our log house was being built on forty acres which father was able to homestead on for \$5.00. This was a fraction which had been left from a grant of land given to Frank Oliver by the Federal Government. The shack leaked like a sieve and after every rain our clothes all had to be put out to dry and often it rained on them several times before they ever dried and oh, how mother hated Alberta.



Noe Desjardin with his team of oxen — 1911.

In 1898 it had been a dry summer, only a rain in June, so it was all new to Uncle and Auntie, but they had a dry roof on their shack which made a great difference.

The mosquitoes were dreadful, horses would lie down and roll in harness and the way they ate father and us children (guess it was the Scotch blood!) was terrible. Every old-timer was asked, "How long will these rains last?" the answer was "Oh, the Indians say we have seven wet years and seven dry years, but my, it's a grand country!" (at that time, we wondered).

There was a school at Clover Bar but as we were living in Salisbury, it was too far to go to school, so

we didn't have a school for another two years, when Salisbury School was built. Mac and I started to school in July with C. W. Richardson as teacher. The first day school opened, Mother let me take Jennie for company, although she wasn't really old enough to go but as there was only Mac, Jennie and I at school, Mr. Richardson talked to us for a few minutes and won our loyalty to him, which never wavered for the next four years. He let us go home.

In 1904 Father realized that forty acres were too small to raise a family of six, as Alice was born the first fall we were in Alberta and Phoebe came two years later. Father got in touch with Ottawa, and after some lengthy correspondence they told him he could have 160 acres as a pre-emption by paying \$1.00 an acre, and just to sell the forty acres.



Twin Foals at lunch on the Calderwood farm.

In 1904, Mr. William Clarke, a family friend, had come up to Pembina, and rather liked it, but the roads were so impassable that he thought he would like to see the country east of Edmonton, which was being surveyed and opened for homesteading. He only had one horse and Father had one, so they made up a team and went out to Vegreville (I believe to about where Vermilion is now). They came back as Mr. Clarke liked Pembina better, but as snow was on the ground, decided to come up the next spring.

In April, 1905, Father came up to Clarkes, who had moved in and squatted earlier that spring, and although the land was not surveyed, he liked it very much and decided to move up as soon as he could settle our affairs in Salisbury. He asked Charlie Hamilton to come down with his team of oxen and

help us move. Early in June we left our home in a covered wagon and driving about thirteen head of cattle, started moving on a Monday so that we should get to Pembina by next Sunday, as no one would think of moving on Sunday at that time. Father had bought a horse to go with our horse to make up a team, but this horse was not really broken; she ran away but did no harm as she ran straight to Edmonton and we camped in the brush just where Norwood School now stands. Father decided he couldn't handle such a wild horse, so he went back to Mr. Owens, the horse dealer, and made a trade in which he got "Ned and Jim", our first real team of matched horses, and of which we were very proud. We also had our "Little Jim" as we called him; he was our saddle horse even though we hadn't a saddle. We stayed at the camp Monday night, but when we went to round up our cattle on Tuesday morning, they were missing, so we all hunted through the thick brush along Rat Creek and on the Hudson Bay Reserve, which is around Norwood Blvd., north and west of Norwood School. About 3 p.m. we located the cattle and brought them to the tent where Mother milked them and we decided to get a few miles on our way before dark. We had to go east and north to try to get to Battenburg on the Athabasca Landing Trail, so as to cross the Sturgeon River. Mostly it was trails, and asking our way when we came to a house, otherwise travelling by faith. We drove through Belmont and once in a while went on a straight piece of road where the road actually followed a road allowance but when twilight came, we were in the wild somewhere between Belmont and Gibbons, near enough to Sturgeon River to get water, and there we pitched our tents for the second night.

After letting the cattle and horses have a feed and with a good smudge going, we all settled down for the night, only to be awakened early the next morning by the cattle wanting the smudge built up. We started on the trail after milking the cows, saving what milk we could use for the day and throwing the rest out (which nearly broke our hearts; such waste). This was Wednesday, and we had an early dinner at Battenburg (now Gibbons) at the bridge across the Sturgeon. That afternoon we were on the dusty, sandy trail. The cattle didn't want to travel and Mac got tired and sore from riding the horse, so we had to camp early. Mother and I took turns in driving the cattle, and we were all tired and cross, but the mosquitoes were not so bad that night and we all slept soundly, only I believe Mother kept a keen watch that she could always hear the tinkle of the cow bell. Thursday morning; up and away again. That afternoon we met Jim Curle, George McLachlan and Neil Forbes and some other Scotsmen going to Edmonton



to meet their women folks who were coming from Scotland. Where we met them was at Lily Lake and admiring it, so were glad to learn the name of the lake from these Scotch boys. Where we were? How many more miles do we have to go? Mother and we children got pretty impatient as Father was so glad to meet some of his own countrymen that he forgot we were fighting to keep cattle in tow as they were really wanting to travel and kept wandering down to the lakeside.

That night we camped at Waugh and that was the first night we couldn't find any water, so in the morning we had nothing but milk to drink and also had to wash in milk. Friday night we got to J. Edgsons and camped on the road. We had already met Jack Edgson as he had come to Salisbury that spring to buy seed oats to put in some crop. We met Mr. and Mrs. Edgson (Sr.) Lena and Art. Frank and Mr. and Mrs. Alton came out and took Mother and the two youngest in for a cup of tea. Edgsons insisted on us sleeping in their house that night. Mac and Father

We were altogether at Edgson's that night and had travelled together on Friday, for which we were pleased as I am sure we would never have known which was the right trail to follow. At Edgson's we met Stewart Beatt who was the local Presbyterian Student Minister, and Alex McGregor who had his tent and was teaching school there.



House raising.



Homesteader's barn.

went into the bunkhouse with the men, as there were other stoppers there. Maynard Gibson and Alex Marshall were locating their homesteads. We girls had beds made on the kitchen floor and Mother was to sleep with Lena so she could enjoy a sleep in a bed, but Alice and Phoebe were afraid without her so she slept on the floor. I was sent in to sleep with Lena. Alice cried that night saying, "I wish we'd never moved." A couple of days before, when travelling in the sand on the Landing Trail, Phoebe said, "I wish we could live" and I think we all felt the same. By this time Charlie Hamilton and our outfit had gotten together, as we had separated the first day with all the cattle trouble and didn't catch up with him until later.

Mother had baked a huge amount of bread before setting out but by Saturday morning, bread was getting low so we decided to go as far as Charlie Hamilton's shack on the Wabash for the weekend and Mother would get some washing done and bread baked. Saturday we got on the road by 8:00 a.m. and when we got less than one mile west of Edgson's there was just one mud hole after another. Charlie and Father had to hitch the oxen and horses on one wagon, then the other, so that we got to George Mills for a rather late dinner. As George had been expecting us he had extra food cooked and gave us a hearty welcome too, as we had already had at Edison.

By the time we got to Charlie's it was too late to bake bread but Mother washed but had to bake bread on Sunday, the first and last time she ever did such a thing. It was really a case of have to or let the family go hungry, and never would mother do that no matter what she had to suffer herself.

Monday we left Charlie's for Pembina and the roads were bad. It looked like rain but when we crossed the Wabash at Evans' they came out and assured us that they didn't think it would rain. As Father had pretty well settled on the homestead, we came to where we thought we would set up our tents but by that time rain was coming down in torrents and we were all soaking wet by the time one tent was set up. Percy Andrews saw us and came over and took us to their house where we were met at the door by his two sisters, Flo and Daisy, and a friend Annie Mills.

I often wonder how we must have looked, Mother

with six children trailing behind her and all landing in on that lovely white floor of new lumber, dripping water and mud, but we were made welcome and soon had our clothes drying around the stove. The men brought food over and Mother fed us out of our own food as she was so independent. She often spoke of how Flo greeted her as she said, "Well, by Jove, you've lots of children, if you've nothing else." Guess that was pretty true. We stayed a couple of days and nights. By that time, Mother and Father and the bachelors had got two tents up and built a place in four trees, with boards, to put up the stove and table, and as the table had a good oilcloth on it, it could keep the flour dry under it.



Winter supply of wood.

This was our home for six weeks while all the bachelors went to work and got out logs. Father hauled lumber from Lyons and McGinnis Mill near Pickardville and later we moved into our new shack which we were really proud of. It had a double window in the west that was just one full window laid on its side, and a single one in the east end. We had a rough board floor and a board roof with boards over the joints, which didn't always keep out the rain, especially in the kitchen part.

I remember when Mr. Mutch came as our student minister in 1907 and stayed quite a few nights at our place, sleeping on the kitchen floor. If it rained he had to have his bed made under the kitchen table. After returning to Ontario, he made sure that we got the East and West as our Sunday School papers. In one of them was an article written by a student telling of his experiences in Alberta and he mentioned about his sleeping under the kitchen table, which had a good oilcloth on it.

Of course, we had no school, so everyone who came looking for a homestead was questioned by Mother about how many children he had as she wanted to start a school. In the fall of 1906, we had a

school, as our teacher from Salisbury brought his friend, Archie Brown, and he was hired to come and start a school in a bachelor's shack. He boarded with us and slept in a tent until he built a shack on his homestead, one mile away.

## I Remember

as recorded by **H. William Price**

My parents originally came from the British Isles in 1907 with one daughter, Doris. When they arrived in Edmonton they stayed in the old immigration hall which used to be by the C.N.R. station. They stayed there until finding work in the Winterburn area, working for a farmer by the name of Andy Anderson. I was born at Winterburn and my sister, Mildred, was born in Strathcona.



Mr. and Mrs. Hector Price with their children Bill and Mildred, April 6th, 1912.

We moved to the Pickardville area in 1912 when I was only three years old, and took up a homestead on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -23-58-27-W4. Naturally, I have no recollection of the tiresome journey or how long it took us to arrive here. A few miles from our destination the wagon got stuck near where James Edwards lives. My folks walked up to Mr. C. Lambert's (Mike Dekeyne's) and stayed overnight, returning next morning, and found to their dismay that some of their belongings had been stolen. We lived on Mr. Dan Cannon's place (Barry Klimosko's now) which is the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ -10-58-27-W4, until my father had a small log house built on our own place.



There was no railway here then, but in 1913 it was built with the help of mules, and men with wheelbarrows, wheeling the loads of dirt for the bed of the tracks. I can just imagine there were quite a few plugs of Big Ben tobacco chewed during that time. At one time the land was surveyed further west for the track, but luckily Pickardville was chosen. Prior to this, Father would have to go all the way to Morinville for supplies, which sometimes took as long as two days over muskeg and trails through the trees. There were no such things as rubber tires, so it was no pleasure to ride over corduroy roads. Everything from axle grease, rolled oats, flour, a few candies for a treat and coal oil, was all carried on the same load. One had to be very careful not to let a spot of coal oil get into the rolled oats or flour, or there would be coal-oil flavoured porridge and bread for a few weeks at least.

After the railway came through we were able to get our supplies at Pickardville, so Mother didn't have as many anxious hours awaiting Father's return from those arduous journeys to Morinville.



The Bill Price family. L to R: Larry, Annie, Charles, William and Jackie (Andrew).

As time passed Dad managed to fence the quarter section, which was not an easy task; no post pounders in those days. Forty acres were cleared and broken. A few more buildings were erected such as a barn, chicken house, a hog barn and, as the need arose, other small additions for setty hens, etc. These small huts were covered with hay for roofing and during the hard winter of 1919 when feed was so scarce, we used that hay for the cattle and horses.

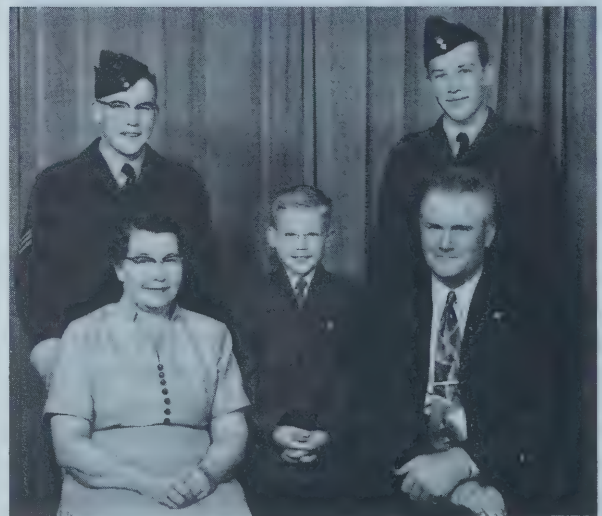
It must have been very hard for Mother to adjust to homestead life after living in the heart of London. How lonely she must have been at times, and longing to hear Big Ben chime or the Bow Bells ringing

instead of coyotes howling at night. There wasn't much time to think about that, though, for there was always so much to do. Bake the bread, make butter, haul in the water, wash the lamp chimneys, beside all the other duties and making sure that Mildred and I weren't into mischief somewhere.

Time came around for attending school and we walked to the school that was on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -27-58-27-W4 which is now owned by Albert Smith. In our bib overalls and the girls in dresses, we walked across the fields to save many a step. We had shoes but used to take them off and sling them over our shoulders and go barefoot.

As time passed we acquired a good line of small machinery such as: a Deering six-foot binder, walking plow, four sections of harrows, a six foot disk, seed drill, wagon and a jumper with shafts for one horse.

Water was quite scarce and in the winter we were obliged to melt snow for the pigs. It takes a lot of pails of snow to make a pail of water and the pigs always seemed to be extra thirsty when we were in a hurry to get into the house to hear "Amos and Andy" on the radio. We dug various holes for water and finally had one bored, and from then on had lots of water for everything.



Larry and Charlie Price, Air Cadets, Annie, Jack and William (Bill) Price, about 1952.

We had some nice Ayreshire cows, so were shipping cream. When we had to take it to the station we had to tie the cream cans securely in the democrat or they would upset sometimes as we were going over the rough roads which in places, was just corduroy. Having cream meant having a cream separator and that was a steady job washing it every day and putting the discs out in the fresh air.

We were beginning to get well established and the future looked brighter when my father died suddenly of a heart attack on April 12, 1924. At the age of thirteen, I had to take over the farm and become the man of the house. My mother married Mr. Richard White in 1930.

Eventually, I started out on my own and rented a farm from Mr. Gander and tried batching for a few years. Mildred married Ted Gower and by now Doris had gone back to England.

On March 16, 1935, I married Annie Gander in Edmonton, and we have lived in Pickardville area ever since, except for the four years I served in the R C A F. We have three sons: William Lawrence, Charles Richard and Andrew John.

Larry married Mabel Stephens of the Westlock area and they have four children: Dawn, Heather, Dwayne and Pamela. Their eldest daughter, Dawn, is married to Todd Rouncville and they have a daughter, Cherisse. They all live in Devon. Larry is Unit Chief of the Control Tower at the International Airport. He has bought the original homestead, so that piece of land has been under the Price name for the last 71 years.

Charlie married Margaret Stanway of Calgary and they have four children: Angela, Suzanne, Steven, Kevin. Charlie is in business for himself, dealing with electronics and solar systems. They reside in Calgary.

Jack married Jeanette Ford of Wainwright and they have three children: Shane, Jason and Stacey. They are involved in a cow-calf operation and grain farming. They reside on the SW¼-12-58-27-W4.

With the installation of electricity, telephones and natural gas, a farm home is as modern and comfortable as a city home, and we feel we have the better part of life without the hustle and bustle of the city. We wouldn't change it for the world and intend to stay on the farm as long as possible. Although I am semi-retired, I spend many hours on the tractor helping to put in the crop and harvest it. Annie and I both enjoy camping and fishing in the summertime and in the winter I enjoy painting and playing chess.

## **A Lesson in Self-Reliance**

**by Albert Baker**

The story I am about to relate happened in the summer of 1913. In fact, if it happened nowadays, it would most likely be brought up in court for child abuse!

I was a little over five years old at the time, and my brother Bill was eighteen months older, so he was the driver.

Mother and Dad Baker had to go to Edmonton on business. We two boys were left with Earl Violet, a

bachelor living on the next homestead. He took care of the livestock and we two boys for three days or so.

Dad had made arrangements for Earl to start us out on our journey with a team and democrat (which is like a buggy, but with two seats), to drive to Clyde. We lived five miles west and four miles south of Westlock. We were to meet mother and dad, baby Mabel and Joe, who were coming back from Edmonton on the Clyde train.

Mother was worried that we were too young to travel the eighteen miles all alone with a team of horses, over a trail through the bush as there was no Highway 18 at that time. Dad was sure we could do it. He had given us strict and exact instructions as to the way we were to go, e.g., to the Hazel Bluff Church, then straight east to Westlock, and on till we crossed the railroad at Clyde, then we were to take the first road south into the station and the village of Clyde.

About halfway between Westlock and Clyde, after we had passed Jack Edgson's place, I said to Bill, "We must be on the wrong road, let's go back," but he said "No. Dad told us to keep on till we crossed the railroad, then take the first road south to the station."

About this time a prairie chicken flew out of its nest in the grass close by the team. The horses jumped and so did we, but nothing serious happened. We finally got to the Clyde station.

We were to tie our team to the hitching rail, where the horses could see the in-coming train, as they were not used to an engine of any kind, much less a steam engine with its noise and steam and smoke rising out of it. This done, we each stood holding a bridle of each horse. They pulled back, and we thought they were going to break the rail and run away, but it held solid.

Dad was standing on the coach step as the train pulled in. He ran through the grass to us in time to take over.

I don't remember much about the trip home as we were both so tired we slept all the way!

Dad never overworked us, but he taught us how to do all the different things in connection with farm work, except to set the seed drill. Earl Violet did that for us.

It was a godsend that dad gave us this instruction, as he was drowned in 1921, after saving two boys who had fallen in the water. Through his teaching, we were able to help mother. At that time, widows didn't get any money or assistance from the government or any organization. Mother kept us all together and we always were well fed and had a comfortable home.

## **Memories of Dick Adkins**

There just doesn't seem to be any way we can



give the pioneers enough credit for their efforts, for the hardships they went through. Only the surviving pioneers know what it is like and they don't want to tell about it because they feel the younger generation would think they were bragging. They would say, "What did you do it for? I sure wouldn't have put up with it."

Now is it not the pioneer who came into the wilderness, cut the bushes to make a place to build a little cabin for protection from the cold? We wonder today why they cut all the bush all around where they built their cabin. Why did they not leave the trees? My friends, they had to clear all the bush away, and it had to be a clearing large enough to protect their homes from spring fires.



Memories of Dick Adkins. Double duty.

Now, we can't give all the credit to the pioneers who made the homestead into a home for their families.

We must not forget the school teachers who taught from 1903 to 1919: their hardships were many. They didn't have heavy, warm clothes like the bushmen and horsemen wore, yet often they had to walk several miles to school, not only in the morning but back home again at night, sometimes through deep snowdrifts.

There was the problem of where to board the teacher. Very few homesteaders had accommodation for a teacher as the first shacks were mostly small, for the first few years.

The one room country school is almost forgotten now. Very few of them remain, and those that do are practically museum pieces! Some have the original furniture still placed as it was when the school was in

operation. The schools were small and cold, water had to be brought from a neighbouring farm if there was not a well on the school grounds, there were outdoor "conveniences", one for boys and one for girls, and there were often children in every grade from one to eight.

Then there was the Inspector's visit. I think the pupils and teacher alike hated the sight of him. But for some reason, those persevering teachers taught the children to add, read and write much better than most of our children do today. God bless them all.

Then there are also our District Nurses.

Maggie Currie (Aunt Maggie, as she was known to all) was one of these. She was a young girl when she came to the district with her widowed sister, Mrs. L. Guest and her family, Alma, Fred, Edith, Harold and Roy. Miss Currie was a frail person, but didn't let that stop her. She was much stronger than she looked. She was always ready and willing to go and nurse the sick, never worrying whether she would be paid or not. Mrs. Guest homesteaded on a quarter two miles west of Westlock, on what is now Highway 18. Harold lost his life in the first World War. The last I heard of this family, Fred was the only one still living, and he is well up in his eighties.

Also, let's not forget the horses.

I often think back to when I was just a young lad. It seems I was always (should I say) under the horses' feet. We never did fear the horses, they always seemed to be part of the family. If a neighbour lost a horse or a cow, the whole neighbourhood seemed to mourn their loss. The children loved the horses and the horses, I can truly say, loved the children.

One great horse was "Old Pat". Pat was a retired race horse, a pacer. The accompanying picture shows Abraham Paddy, in the cutter, driving Old Pat. Mr. Paddy was a partner of the livestock and fur buying team of Paddy and Wiener, back in 1920's. The horse was later purchased by Dudley Shaffer, and groomed and trained by Mr. Carter who was the harness repair man in Westlock.

This horse, and one owned by Pat Burdick of Clyde, were the main attraction at the June 3rd picnic, an annual event in Westlock in the 1920's. Many an oldtimer will remember Old Pat coming down the home stretch, usually first and always a great favourite. While horses today seem to be a luxury, or a rich man's hobby, back in the early days (till 1930) they were our main source of power to pull the farm machinery, and for many, they were used for transportation. The most of them were well broken and could do everything but talk.

Jennie and Queen were the best team I ever owned. It was a sad day when they got too old to work

anymore. The picture shows them working in the hayfield using an overshot stacker. In the first picture the hay machine is on the ground ready to be loaded with loose hay. The second picture shows Jennie and Queen hitched to sweep, bringing in a load. They would straddle the forks of the stacker, pull the sweep load of hay onto the prongs of the stacker, then swing around and go for another load. Another team or a small tractor or truck would pull the stacker load up and over the top of the stack. With two sweeps and two men on the stack we could put up a lot of hay in one day.

**Random Memories of the Depression Years**

**by Herbert Mirus**

The first home in Busby was a rented log house which belonged to a man by the name of Buchanan. It was standing on the east quarter of Carl's farm. When Buchanan moved into the house himself, we moved to Harry Smith's homestead. I was working for a fellow named Moore who lived on the quarter we later bought. I was making fence posts and wood for Moore for five cents an hour. Every time he had to

go away or drive into Busby he would send me home, about a two mile walk — and it happened many times that I only made fifteen or twenty cents a day. The end of the story was that he couldn't pay me and I had to take chickens and a plow in trade.

The furniture in our house was homemade. Some apple boxes served as corner tables, the large crate in which the stuff came from Germany served as a dresser and so on. However, Edith had a flair for homemaking, a few little embroideries, pictures and flowers soon made you forget the humble surroundings.

In 1934 some of our neighbors helped us build a bigger house, which was indeed quite nice. However, when it came to the roof there was no money left and we could only afford tarpaper and slabs. The sun didn't take long to get the little tar out of the paper and by fall the rain was coming through the roof like a sieve. At the same time, the hole we had under the house for a cellar filled up with water. On one of the worst days we had a visitor who suggested, as a consolation, that we could sell the house with an advertisement that could read "House with running water."

**Pembina River Flood**



The flood of the Pembina River at Rossington in 1944.



Pembina River in flood 1944.



James Watt house, Pembina River flood, 1944.



Flood at Rossington — 1944





Farm scene, Pembina river flood, Rossington, 1938.



Flood on the Pembina River at Rossington, 1944.



Boon's yard at flood peak, 1948.

## Threshing Time Among the Pioneer Westlock Homesteaders

In those first years, when grain fields were mere plots on the farms of our early homesteaders, the most romantic and certainly the most exhausting time of the year came when it was time for the pitifully small accumulation of sheaves to be threshed.

By God's grace, there were enough binders brought into the district to enable the farmers to gather the ripened grain into bundles which were stooked in neat rows until it was dry enough to thresh.

It was in the early twenties before stook threshing

was practised in any degree around Westlock. This was due mainly to the fact that farms and fields were so small each homesteader found it easier to stack his bundles rather than wait for a threshing machine to arrive. Once stacked the precious grain and straw was safe from the rain and snow until well after the New Year or even until Spring if need be. A single grain separator was depended on to cover a great deal of territory.

When the stooks were deemed dry enough, the stacking began. Each farmer stacked his own. It took two people to build a stack, one to pitch the bundles from the wagon and the other to lay them in orderly fashion until the stack was finally 'brought in' to a point at the top. If there was no teen-age son or daughter to help stack it was the wife who ran out when each load was brought in, pitched off the bundles, and then rushed in to catch up on her housework while hubby was out for another load.

The stacks were built in "sets" of either two or four. Room had to be left between each pair for the front end or feeder of the machine. Thus two stacks could be threshed at one set of the thresher. If more than four stacks were made in one set there was no room to back in with three grain wagons for one reason and another: too many stacks in a row interfered with the drive belt and even the engine.

Before I go into the description of one of those early threshing outfits, I think, for the benefit of those of my readers who are not familiar with the threshing process, I will give you a sort of literary blueprint of the workings of a modern grain separator.

We will start of course at the front end or feeder as it is called. A conveyor chain with slats at intervals moves the bundles of straw with their heavy heads of grain up to a set of revolving knives which cut the twine and spread the bundle. Another shaft with revolving claws pulls the straw down to the cylinder, and things begin to happen. The cylinder is a heavy high speed drum with heavy teeth spaced at intervals.

These teeth mesh with similar teeth on a concave bar set rigidly below. This bar is called strangely enough, a concave. Needless to say, when the straw gets through this set of whirring teeth it comes out a mess. The grain has been beaten out of its hulls and the whole conglomeration now moves on to the straw racks. The straw racks give the works a royal shaking and the grain falls through to the grain pan and sieves below. A fan then sends a controlled blast of air through the sieves and blows most of the chaff up and out with the straw. In the event that some grain might be only partially threshed an arrangement called a return elevator carries it back for another session with the cylinder. Finally the clean grain slides into an

auger and thence to an elevator, travels up above the machine and spills into the weigh-box. The weigh-box can be set to trip its load at half-bushel intervals. A short auger carries the grain to the nearby bin or truck. Lastly the straw falls off the straw racks into the blower compartment where a powerful fan blows it out through a large pipe to the straw-pile.

Now we can get back to those first machines of which there were so few in our district in the early homesteading days. The writer worked on one briefly in the fall of 1918. Basically this thresher followed the description given above except that it lacked some of the refinements of the later models.

In place of the feeder a platform was provided for the bundles to fall on if the pitcher threw with his mind on his work. A man called the 'band cutter' or 'feeder' stood all day before this platform with his cutter which, incidently was simply a mower knife fixed in a short wooden handle, — and he cut the twine on each bundle and gave it a shove into the mow of the machine. A band-cutter in a heavy wool shirt after a day cutting barley bundles came off work looking like a porcupine and feeling like a pin-cushion.

The grain elevator was a much taller structure than the later models. The reason was the weigh-box hadn't been invented yet and the grain must have room to trickle down a terribly long pipe to the bagger. Yes, the grain was hauled away in bags. Each farmer owned twenty-two good cotton two bushel bags. Twenty-two bags when full and standing open neatly filled the ordinary wagon box. The bagger, (he was human) stood at the back of each wagon box as its turn came and, slipping an empty bag over the "terribly long" grain pipe, opened a slide in the end of the pipe and allowed the bag to fill. When full he handed it to the grain hauler who dragged it to the front of the box while the "bagger" dexteriously attached another bag. Incidently, a good bagger was something like a good tap-man in a tavern. The farmer paid at bushel rates and a bag was called two bushels. I do not wish to imply that all baggers were cheats but there was the odd incidence where short changing by way of the grain bag did occur.

There was one more thing about the threshing machine that was not invented soon enough to suit this writer and that was the straw blower. A long conveyor ran out the back of the machine and at the far end you would usually find two school-boys who would much rather be baggers or even band cutters than common straw-stackers. The straw had to be kept away from the conveyor's end with a fork and it sure could keep a boy out of mischief for a day at least.

Grain hauling was a hard, back breaking job.

Most farmers had but one large granary with several small bins. The bags had to be man-handled through a narrow door or window and thence up a pile of sliding grain to the top of the pile where it was dumped.

We have to deal with the power used for these early little machines. There were several early gas tractors, like the Oil-pull, the Mogul, and of course the Titan. The one I worked on, (on the straw-pile) in 1918 was powered with an ordinary fifteen horse stationary engine, with its gigantic flywheels. It was mounted on a steel wheeled wagon gear and transported by horse as was the thresher. There was a real knack in lining this contraption up to make the belt run true. There was a ritual in starting one of these on a cold morning. The machine man would open the priming cock on the side and pour in a cupful of gasoline. Then he grasped a giant flywheel and gave a heave. The open priming cock would go, "WHOOOOOSH!" and, if everything went according to plan the piston gave its first mighty shove and another day had begun.

Thus it was that we got the crops off in those early days.

No story of threshing would be complete without mentioning the highlight of each day's work, namely, mealtime: and the wonderful women who worked even longer hours than their men to fill the bellies that seemed at every mealtime to have capacities of empty two-bushel grain bags.

The cook was sure to be first up in the morning, cramming wood into the cookstove until the top glowed red. Breakfast was as big a meal to prepare as dinner or supper. Porridge, meat and potatoes, pancakes and even pie were common fare at breakfast. Then came dish washing and the great roasts of meat set in the oven to be ready on the dot for dinner. Bread and pies had to be baked daily. And last to bed at night was, — you guessed it, — mother.

And that was how we did the threshing in those



Bundle team and rack pulling in to threshing outfit on Mac-Lachlan farm.





Joe Baxandall Threshing Outfit 1933. Fred Baxandall, Tom Bunce and Dave Finnigan. Case thresher and Twin City tractor.

days of long ago. How sad it is that there are ever fewer of us left that took part in those days of hard, hard work. Can you blame us if we heave a thankful sigh as we say, "We've come a long way since then,"?



Threshing.



Stooking crew.



Stacking bundles at Westgate's, 1917 or 1918.



Harvesting on the Walter Poloway farm, 1945.



Wightman's threshing outfit, hand fed and hand cleared from straw.



Harvesting 1952 on DesChamplain.



Denis Huot (age 46) and Claude Huot (age 13). 1946.



Threshing crew on MacLachlan farm. Standing: Stuart (L) and George MacLachlan. Knud and Alice Olsen, 1905.



Lunch time for stookers. L to R: Oliver Smith, Bill Wallace, Andy Smith.



## 1981 Volunteer of the Year

Mrs. Phoebe Lyons is the Westlock area's first volunteer of the year.

Mrs. Lyons, who has lived in the district almost all her life, and in the town of Westlock for the last 22 years, has been active in the United Church Women (UCW), Oldtimers' Association, the Hospital Volunteers, and the Salvation Army depot and Thrift Shop.

She has donated a great deal of her time to the Salvation Army depot over the past 20 years, but recently retired from that to spend more time as a hospital volunteer, assisting and visiting patients and other shut-ins.



Phoebe Lyons giving her thank you speech on receiving Citizen of the Year Award.



Mrs. Phoebe Lyons receiving the 1981 Volunteer of the Year Award at Westlock Memorial Hall.

Born in Salisbury, now known as Sherwood Park, just outside Edmonton, she moved with her parents to the Sunnybank district about 60 years ago, and lived there and in neighboring Riverdale for almost 40 years. As well as raising five children, she was active in the Women of Unifarm organization when living in the country.

Along with her many friends, Phoebe Lyons has seventeen grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. The volunteer of the year award does not honor just one year of someone's contribution to the community. As its first winner, Mrs. Lyons has set a high standard for the future winners to attain.

## 1982 Volunteer of the Year

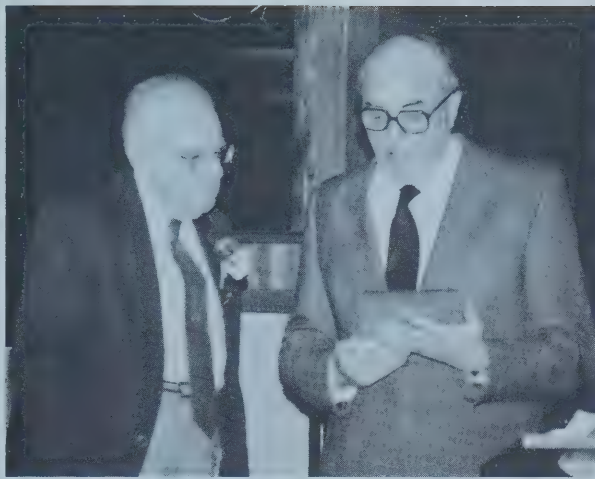
### Stanley Coates

Stan has been tremendously active in the community of Westlock over the past several years. At the age of 77 he has a significant track record which includes involvement in the Salvation Army, the Canadian Bible Society, Gideon's, Chairman for Hire-a-Student, former President of the Golden Age Club, on the Board of Trustees for the Church of the Nazarene, involvement in the Art Club, the Westlock Inter-Agency Committee, Canadian Cancer Society, the Midnight Twilight Tourist Association, Chamber of Commerce and more recently the Westlock History Book and the Alberta Senior's Games.

Stanley is the second such recipient of this Award which was initiated last year by the Westlock Community Services. Numerous names were submitted and the committee was pleased by the response shown in the Westlock area.



Stan Coates making his acceptance speech for receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award, 1982.



Stan Coates being presented with a memento from the representative for the Municipal District of Westlock, Glynn Jones.

Stanley Coates was born in England and came over to Alberta at the age of 18. He married Bertha Maxey on September 26, 1935 and has been blessed with numerous friends. Stan enjoyed life out on the farm and recalls many of life's experiences through the Depression years and onwards. His interest in the historical dimension of life is obvious in his commitment to see the Westlock Historical Book brought to fruition.

Congratulations, Stanley Coates.

## Farm Homes



The Hersey Homestead at Busby.



Max Hill house on the homestead.



F. Nadeau home built about 1912.



Jerome Lambert home built in 1917.



The Thomas Letts home, 1911.





Jack McCrae's homestead.



1919 home of Ernest Hunt.



Al Onland's home on his homestead.



E. Hunt home, 1909.



New barn on the Gurney farm, 1938.



Adkins log home on the Wabash.



Leslie Hide home, Westlock.



Gurney's old log barn, 1924. These logs were in a pile in the yard when Dad bought the farm. They came off the school section where the O'Briens now live. Dad, with the boys help, put this barn up. It was used for many years. Reg with the turkey gobbler.



Maynard and Lena Gibson's home on the homestead where the family grew up.



DeChamplain homestead, 1925.



The pioneer home of Thomas and Elizabeth Heywood in the Clyde District. 1½ miles from Poplar Knoll school.



W. J. Brook's home — 1907. D. MacDougall, W. Brook, Olive Allen, Cliff Allen, Mrs. Allen, W. Norris. Note the big bell and the beautifully dovetailed corners.





Barn erected on Zaczkowski farm, 1930.



J. Edgson home covered in red tin siding.



The Ben Allen frame house — 1908.



The Westgate home in Westlock, built in 1910.



Art Fortin on home farm.



John and Elizabeth Glebe's home in Pickardville.

## Weddings



Raymond Rivard and Agnes Pelletier on their wedding day, April 7, 1973.



Raymond and Simone (Pelletier) Houle on their wedding day — October 28, 1967.



Ernie and Anne Woods Wedding.



May and Mac MacDougall's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Janet, Betty, Lil, John, Dorothy and Mary.



Mr. and Mrs. Mac MacDougall's 50th Wedding Anniversary.





Mr. and Mrs. Dan MacDougall's 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1942.



Julia and Dick Green's Wedding — July 14, 1926. Ernie, Emily, Julia and Dick.



Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Allen, August 7, 1928.



Louise Pelletier and Normand Boissonneault wedding picture — November 7, 1970.



Fern and Dorice Dechamplain's Wedding picture.



Sam and Irene (O'Brien) Schmode. Wedding Day, 1937.



Jim and Libby Hunter's wedding picture, 1924.



George and Fanny Sterling. Golden wedding, June, 1983.



# Transportation



Tom Letts Ferry.



Going to baseball game at Pickardville. Front seat: Henry and Lucy Petrin. Back seat: Yolande Desalier, Leda and Eloi Petrin.



A free ride to the Peace River Country, Westlock station, June 1933.



Albert Morin's "Bennett Buggy".



A team of oxen driven by the late Mr. Jamieson, parked in front of Lindahl's. "Lindy" Lindahl "taking the bull by the horns." Sept., 1934.



Bill Glover with his Luscombe plane, Westlock airstrip.



Eloi Petrin and M. Coupal coming home in 1924.



Mail delivery with "Caboose" from 1939-1943, Albert Lachance. Route was Highway 2, south for two miles, 19 miles west, two miles north and 19 miles east. Run took from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. twice a week.

# Farm Animals



George and Don McMillan feeding pet lambs.



Livestock on the Lefebvre farm.



Ludovic Pelletier and son Archie feeding hogs from the old log granary.



Mr. Bohna and his stallion "Alpin", one of the first horses in Lunnford, Alberta.



Bill Glover's flock of sheep.



Maurice Nobert with his chickens, 1948.



Emmett Gosche farming with mule team.





Gladys Bidne and Chub, 1955 before going to Toronto Royal Winter Fair. He stood fourth in his class.



Jacob Schlachter plowing with ten horses in 1927.



Bob MacLachlan, Rick Clements and Don MacLachlan. 1950.



Orton Stephens with Reg Stephens on his knees, plowing and harrowing, 1933.

## Farm Machinery



George Harry Letts and brother-in-law John A. McCrae harvesting. 1911.



Orton Stephens on "Titan" tractor. 1919.



LeHeureux's steam thresher, 1920.



Haying at Tom McMillan's, 1952. Tom on stack, George on tractor and Don on Farmhand.



David Calderwood and son Alex hauling firewood in the early days.



Stacking hay on the Riopel farm, July 20, 1938.



This picture was taken in 1933. From left: J. B. Charois, Ben Gagner, Joe Ouelette, Adrien Charois, Noel Pelletier, Ludovic Pelletier.



Stacking hay with a sweep on the Lefebvre farm.



Ludovic Pelletier and son Achille with drill and disc.





Harvesting on the MacLachlan farm. R to L: Don MacLachlan, George MacLachlan, Jimmy Lees operating the binder.



Ludovic Pelletier, six horses on a single disc.



Two horse treadmill power unit used in the early days for crushing grain or sawing wood in the Peavine district.



The Maxwell gas threshing outfit.



Stacking greenfeed on the Edmond Bruyere farm. Ted Anderson on stack, Edmond Bruyere on bundle rack, and the Bruyere children.



Felix Goupie's steam threshing outfit with water tank.



Charles Watson's home made thresher.



Stook-loader loading stooks.

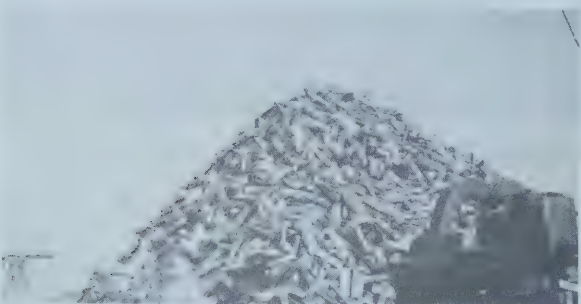


Sid Glebe Sr., plowing with old Avery Tractor.





Sawing wood at William Glebe's. L to R: Sid Glebe, Walter Rector, Floyd Glebe, Carl Hansen, Bill Glebe and George Wilkinson.



Woodpile and splitter — Flintoff farm.



Ed Forbes on Farmall Tractor, 1939.



Don MacLachlan and Jimmy Lees cutting grain with power binder and lug wheeled tractor in late 1930's.

## Sawmills



Zackowski Lumber Mill near Lebeau's Lake.



Jule Jolivet mill on the school section in 1944.



Stack in place, mill in operation, 1905. L to R: Manta, ?, Mr. Legasse, Zephir Martin, Johnny Legasse (age 15), Nellie the mule, Joe Arnault, Billy Wood at the saw, last man unknown.



Jule Jolivette's mill.



Cook shack at Zaczkowski's Lumber Mill.



Zaczkowski's Lumber Mill.



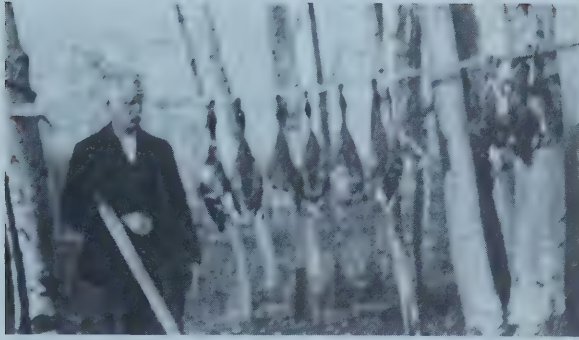


Zaczkowski's Lumber Mill.



Legasse Mill 1 mile south of Clover Valley School, 1905. L to R: Manta, Johnny Legasse on horse named Happy John. Team of oxen Dan and Dook, Joe Arnault standing on top of boiler. Albert Trudell seated on log, Louis Legasse, the steam engineer; Zephir Martin, Billy Wood, sawyer; man with beard, Mr. Marshall, Israel Fortier.

# Hunting and Fishing



Mr. D. MacDougall and his wild ducks.



Fred Lyons and his friend Axel Klauson.



MacLachlan family. Dan McAfee from Edmonton owns the Ford car. Donald, Stuart and John (father) MacLachlan, Catherine (Mother) MacLachlan, Duncan Gray on running board and George MacLachlan.



Hunting catch. John England, unknown, Sandy England.

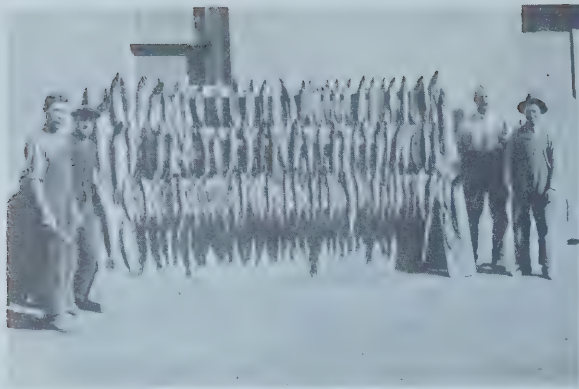


Hunting catch. Andrew Zaczkowski, J. Heusserar and John Seckney.



Hunting trip. Mr. Holtan (Storekeeper) is standing beside the truck, Orland Bidne behind the truck, Mr. Campbell took the picture.





Mr. C. Gandre with his fishing buddies at Lac La Nonne 1921.



Float at 1983 fair, Westlock.

## Fair Parade



W.C.C. Float in Westlock Parade.



Old Timers' Float in Westlock Parade, 1981.



Float at 1983 Fair at Westlock.



Six horse team, in Westlock Parade, 1983.



Horse riders in Westlock Fair Parade, 1983.



Parade at Westlock.



A fine team in Westlock Parade, 1983.



Police Officers E. E. Buchanan and Geo. B. McLellan leading the King and Queen Jubilee Parade in Westlock, 1935.

## Miscellaneous Photos of Interest



A fine horse specimen in Westlock Fair Parade, 1983.



L to R: Irene Marshall, Madge Smith, Myrnie Sands and Jean Buchanan in costume for Irish dance.





Practicing dancing the Minuet in front of the R.C.M.P. Barracks.



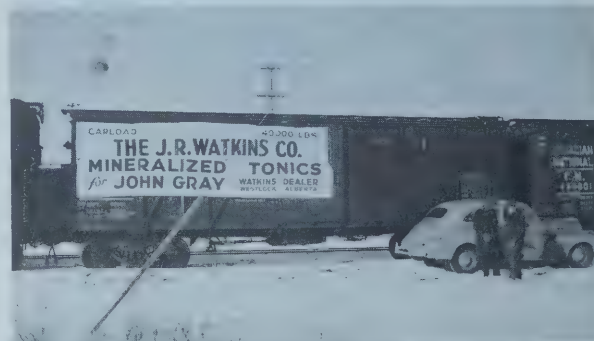
Bomb Shelter discovered when Dr. L. Kickham's former home was demolished in 1982 to build a new Chiropractic Clinic and the Westlock Dry Cleaners. Picture by Doreen O'Brien.



Putting up hay with slings on Clement farm.



Ice Cutting — Sanford Sawyer and Verdun Baxandall, 1933.



John Gray and Lorne Gray at siding in Westlock, a first in mineral sales — 1941.



Louis McDonald and his dog team getting the mail at Jeffrey, P.O.



Premier Herbert Greenfield.



Tom Letts Ferry, 1961.



L to R: Johnny Legasse and Louis Legasse Sr., driving horses in 1914.



Main Street, Westlock 51 years ago. This 1929 photograph shows life in another era.





Boxes for a Box Social to be auctioned. The buyer ate supper with the owner of the box purchased.



Bella (Beatt) Edgson, Leah Westgate, Lizzie Beatt, Steadman, Berry picking, 1918.



Clyde C. N. Station at end of the street flanked by Pool Elevator.



Part of Westlock's War effort.



Mr. Langille's second hand store with sign, "Westlock, The Premier District of Alberta. The place where wheat is grown at the lowest cost and the highest yield on North American Continent."



Dale Carnegie Class — 1940. Back row, L to R: Ray Renaud, Ken Lowe, Lorne Gray, Bob Wilkins, Stan Bott, Herb Kipp, ?, ?, ?, ?, Martin Pavelich, ?, Frank Greenfield, ?, Carl Muller. Middle Row: Ron Johnson, Ed Prazak, Ray Hide, Ken Roy, ?, George Hunt, Dr. Whissell, Larry Clarahan, ?, Bill Glover, ?, ?, Bob Sutherland, Bob Edgar, Dwaine Macaulay. Front row, L to R: Frank Doherty, Joe Renaud, Nora Larson, Ann Hide, Jean Merryweather, Lorraine Prazak, Fern Clarahan, Eleanor Edgar, Berna Turner, Hazel Fraser, ?, Al Foss, Deisel Parsons.





Harry Curlett's tractor line-up on 107th Street, Westlock, 1928.



"Arnold Goes into Business" by the United Church Dramatic Club, 1928. At back: Robert Smith, William McCullough, Ewart Stutchbury. Middle row: Rita Sterling, Edna Oestrich, Margaret Currey, George Sterling, Vada Haddigan. Front row: Ray Hide, Eppie Allen, Helen Sutherland, Russell Sterling.



Past and present members of Westlock Town Council, 1960. Back row, L to R: Bill Glover, Miller Watt, Cliff Fender, Harry Curlett, Roman Perrin, Lorne Campbell, Bob Sutherland, Pat Conkin, Norman Miller. Seated: Barney Hughes, Larry Clarah-an, Joe Renaud, Bob Jorgenson, Archie Hollingshead, Chas. Roulston, Andy Brooks.



One of the engines taken over by the CNR from the NAR on January 1st, 1981. The original number 204 was changed to 4605 for computer use. When the number was changed, each train was given the name of a large town on the railroad. This one is "Westlock".



Fire of Imperial Oil Company warehouse, Westlock, May 22, 1936.



G. H. Letts on a load of grain for the elevator.



Rubber salvage for the War effort.



Joe Baxandall threshing near Westlock with Dave Finnigan's Case Thresher. 1933.





A group of pioneers in their buggies outside the Alberta Hotel in Morinville.



Omer and Pat Fortin's house being moved from their farm to Harry Chase's farm.



Purebred Shorthorn steer raised by C. W. Parsons weighed 3170 lbs. at 5 years old and was six feet high. Shown across Canada and at Wembley, England.



Don MacLachlan and Jim Lees harvesting at Clyde.



Grain stacks made by Dad Gurney to be threshed later.



Sheep flock at Westlock on the farm of W. H. (Bill) Glover.



In costume for French Minuet. L to R: Irene Marshall, Jean Buchanan, Myrnie Sands and Madge Smith.



Betty Ducharme, Dorine Scott, Hilda Cole, Hazel Goodman, Gertie Forbes, Helen (DeRappard) Baxandall, Dorothy Durstling, Mrs. Jule Ducharme, Edie Schmidt, Mrs. Huppertz, Rita Cannard, Olive Hope, Mrs. Teller, Yvette Biggeman holding small son. 1959.



Pink and Blue Costumes for the Festival. Back row, L to R: Alberta Wood, Jean Lajarise, Betty Watt, Mary Astill. Front row, L to R: Barbara Ritz, Norma McRae, Connie Beach, Margaret Elliott, Marjorie Adkins and Hazel Golder.



Mort Bates meets U.S. troops on their way to Alaska. Westlock station May, 1942.



Picnic at Pembina River on the Ralph farm, L to R: Sanford Sawyer, Freeman Wood, Glenn Sawyer and Jack Bruder.





Westlock Town Council. L to R: Miller Watt, Cliff Fender, Harry Curlett, Charlie Roulston, Lorne Campbell, Joe Renaud.



Westlock Musical Festival, 1940. Front row: L to R: Lorna Campbell, Catherine Pierce, Madge Smith, Mary Bishop, Ella Zacek, Mernie Sands. Back row: Peters, ?, Carol Stanton, Esther Mitchell, Shirley Bentley.



Quadruplet calves at E. Gamble farm, Pibroch.



Art Racine with a load of coyote pelts, 1948.



Bill Burns and Hackney team — Princess and Rose.



Diana and Antionette Casavant with a tub of blueberries, 1950.



Seibert family at a picnic on their farm at Pickardville, 1923.



Westlock main street about 1922. First Fordson tractor.



Fair Days Parade — 1963.





Bethel Bible Camp, July, 1945. This was the first camp held on the site.



The oil well on the Jolivet farm.



Bringing Santa Claus from the North Pole to Westlock. Dr. Whissell and his "Fairchild 24" on skis. About 1950.



Westlock's first pilots about 1948. L to R: Bill Glover, Albert Nelson, Dr. Whissell, Cliff Fender, Percy Baxandall, Instructor Jack Ross, Inspector Bob Moore, Louis Nelson, Ted Leake, Ray Nelson.



United Church Mission Band. Mrs. Rhad Brown and Mrs. D. K. Allan. 1932.

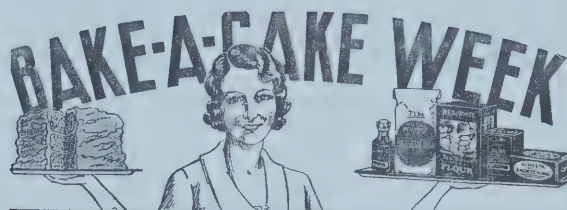
## Documents



Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Wheatley, 1916.



Hettie Burns and her Hackney mare "Princess".



### Special Values for November 3rd to 9th

 <b>7 lb. bag</b> <b>RED &amp; WHITE FLOUR</b> <small>or Better Bread, Use RED AND WHITE FLOUR</small>	<b>Baking Powder</b> Red & White 16-oz. tins Each <b>25c</b>	<b>Molasses</b> Blue & White 5 lb. tin <b>45c</b>
	<b>Baking Powder</b> Red & White 2-lb. tins Each <b>65c</b>	<b>Cream of Tartar</b> Gillet's 1/4-lb. pkg. <b>14c</b>
 <b>DOMESTIC SHORTENING</b> <small>Ready for the Oven in Two Minutes</small>	<b>Domestic Shortening</b> Per pound <b>15c</b>	<b>Yellow Sugar</b> Pound <b>9c</b>
	<b>Extracts</b> Red & White, Lemon or Vanilla 1 1/2-oz. Each <b>22c</b>	<b>Chocolate</b> Baker's 1/2-lb. bar <b>27c</b>
 <b>RED AND WHITE SPICES</b> <small>are Pure</small>	<b>Spices</b> Red & White, Your Choice 3 tins <b>25c</b>	<b>Currants</b> Baked Pound <b>18c</b>
	<b>Bleached Sultanas</b> Fancy Per lb. <b>19c</b>	<b>Cake Flour</b> Biscuit Packet <b>30c</b>
 <b>RED AND WHITE SPICES</b> <small>are Pure</small>	<b>Seedless Raisins</b> - - - 2 lbs. for <b>29c</b>	<b>Red &amp; White Flour</b> 98 lbs. 49 lbs. 24 lbs.
	<b>Puffed Raisins</b> - - - 2 lbs. for <b>33c</b>	<b>Tea Biscuit Flour</b> Specially Prepared Packet <b>33c</b>
 <b>RED AND WHITE SPICES</b> <small>are Pure</small>	<b>Cut Mixed Peel</b> Pound cask <b>22c</b>	
	<b>Pineapple Rings</b> Each <b>5c</b>	
 <b>RED AND WHITE SPICES</b> <small>are Pure</small>	<b>Glace Cherries</b> 8-oz. pkt. <b>28c</b>	
	<b>Maraschino Cherries</b> 5-oz. bottle <b>15c</b>	
 <b>RED AND WHITE SPICES</b> <small>are Pure</small>	<b>Shelled Walnuts</b> Per lb. <b>32c</b>	
	<b>Shelled Almonds</b> 1/2 pound <b>25c</b>	
 <b>RED AND WHITE SPICES</b> <small>are Pure</small>	<b>Cocoanut</b> Shredded, Per pound <b>26c</b>	
	<b>Dates</b> New pack 2 lbs. <b>22c</b>	
 <b>RED AND WHITE SPICES</b> <small>are Pure</small>	<b>Grapefruit</b> Florida, Each <b>10c</b>	<b>Lemons</b> Per doz. <b>35c</b>
	<b>Apples</b> "DELICIOUS" WRAPPED "McINTOSH REDS", E. C. Pack	

SELF-SERVE

DON STANTON

STORE SERVICE

Early flyer of Don Stantons specials. Red and White Store.









Let Pass No. 27

Entry No. 34



Custom House,

Port of Cardston July 12 1902

To all Officers of His Majesty's Customs.

**PERMIT**

W. A. Elliott to Pass to Edmonton

by Trail with the following described goods, having been reported and entered at this office, viz:

4 Horses, 1 Wagon, 1 Saddle,  
2 Harnesses, 1 Saddle

This Permit will protect the goods only while between the places and by the route or conveyance named and during the time necessary to effect the transit and is good for no other purpose.

J. H. Shaw Collector.  
to C. V. Dub

Custom Permit to William A. Elliott issued at Cardston July 12, 1902.

This Licence MUST be kept available for inspection

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE-RADIO BRANCH  
1936-37

**Private Radio Receiving Licence**  
(Issued under the Radiotelegraph Act, Revised Statutes of Canada, 1907, chapter 180)

C 61093

John T. Taylor  
(PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS)

IS HEREBY LICENSED, SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH ON THE BACK HEREOF, TO ESTABLISH OR WORK A PRIVATE RADIO RECEIVING STATION AT:-

Cycle (Street and Number)  
Alberta (Province)

AND IN ADDITION TO WORK ONE RADIO RECEIVING SET IN A PASSENGER AUTOMOBILE OWNED BY THE LICENSEE.

THIS LICENCE EXPIRES ON THE 15th MARCH, 1937

RECEIVED THE SUM OF TWO DOLLARS (\$2.00) LICENCE FEE THIS 19th DAY OF July A.D. 1936

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER OF MARINE

L.C.B. No. 16-Rev'd 1st Dec. 1935 To be handed to Licensee

Private radio receiving licence issued to John T. Taylor on the 19th November, 1936.

(STORAGE) 82

Inspection Card for Immigration Officer at Port of Arrival in Canada

Name of Immigrant... Charles Clara

Name of Ship... LAKE MICHIGAN ... ANVERS

Date of sailing... 8 May 1912 ... Country of permanent residence... 18

Name appears on Manly stamp... 18

Medical Examination Stamp	Civil Examination Stamp	Island Exchange Order
		Reads over... By.

**VACCINATION PROTECTED**

Ship Surgeon's Signature. (SEE BACK)

Immigration Inspection Card issued to Clara Charlier, now Mrs. Nelson Brown, on the 8th May, 1912.





THE NATURALIZATION ACT

REV. STAS. CAN. CHAPTER 113, AND AMENDMENTS THEREOF

Certificate of Naturalization.

DOMINION OF CANADA,

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA:

In the Supreme Court of the North-west Territories before The  
Honorable.....HORME SURVEY.....one of the Judges of the  
said Court, sitting in Chambers in the Judicial District of Northern Alberta.

Whereas.....John Zaenkowski.....formerly of  
.....Minnesota.....now of.....Edison  
(Name of Country)

in the Province of Alberta in the Dominion of Canada .....  
.....Farmer, 30, 50, 20, W 4. ....has complied with the

several requirements of "The Naturalization Act," and has duly resided in Canada  
for the period of three years;

And whereas the certificate granted to the said .....John Zaenkowski  
.....under the tenth section of the said Act has been  
duly presented to the said Judge sitting in Chambers in the said Judicial District;  
and whereas a copy of such certificate has been duly posted in a conspicuous place  
in the Court House in which the said Judge holds his Chambers, and the said Judge  
has directed the issue of a certificate of naturalization of the said.....

.....John Zaenkowski  
This is therefore to certify to all whom it may concern, that, under and by virtue  
of the said Act.....John Zaenkowski.....has  
become naturalized as a British subject, and is within Canada, entitled to all politi-

cal and other rights, powers and privileges, and is subject to all obligations to which  
a natural-born British subject is entitled or subject within Canada, with this quali-  
fication that he shall not, when within the limits of the Foreign State of which he  
was a subject (or citizen) previous to the date hereof, be deemed to be a British  
subject unless he has ceased to be subject (or citizen) of that State, in pursuance  
of the law thereof, or in pursuance of a treaty or convention to that effect.

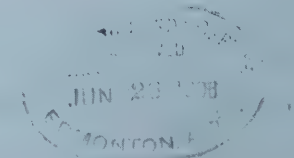
Given under the seal of the Supreme Court of the North-west  
Territories, Judicial District of Northern Alberta, this.....14th  
day of.....June.....one thousand nine hundred and.....six.

*E. J. Ferris*  
.....  
Deputy Clerk of the Supreme Court.

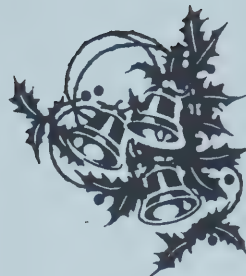
L.S.

This is a true copy of the Certi-  
ficate granted to the above  
named person.

.....  
Deputy Clerk of the Court.



5-2-103



"My teeth  
Are on edge till I do eat; now will  
I cozen all men without opposition,  
I feel my strength increase with very thought on't."  
—W. Cartwright

## Christmas Dinner

☆☆☆

Celery      Salted Almonds      Olives  
Oysters on Half Shell

Cream of Tomatoes aux Souffles  
Consommé, Double Chiffonade

Mousseline of Salmon, Cardinale  
Potatoes Noisette

Raspberry Sherbet

Domestic Goose Braise, Chestnut Stuffing  
Roast Alberta Turkey, Cranberry Sauce

Mashed or Rissolées Potatoes  
Peas a la Francaise      Mashed Turnips

Panama Salad

English Plum Pudding, Hard Sauce      Hot Mince Pie  
Glacé de Fantaisie

Nuts      Dinner Mints      Raisins

Demi Tasse

December 25, 1927

Two Dollars per Person



Serenely full, the epicure would say:  
"Fate cannot harm me—I have dined to-day."  
—Sydney Smith

Christmas dinner menu at the MacDonald Hotel, December  
25, 1927.





## Family Index

Adair, Forrest	281	Boon Family	335	Croswell, Ernest	393
Adkins — England to the Wabash	281	Borm, Rudolph	336	Cumming, Charlie and Beatrice	394
Adkins, Alfred	283	Bouchard, Family	337	Curle, Jim	394
Adkins Family	283	Boulanger, Wilfred	338	Cuthiell, Jock	395
Adkins Family, John A.	283	Bourgeois, Napoleon	340	Daly, Clarence	396
Adkins, Louie	287	Bowen, Thomas	340	Davies, Percy G.	396
Allen, Ben	288	Boyd, Garf and Louise	341	de Champlain, Fernand	399
Allen, Fred	289	Boyd, Garfield and Olive	342	Dehnka, William	400
Allen, Stanley Collins	290	Boyd, Lorne and Daisy	343	de Rappard Family	401
Altons, The	291	Breadner, Beatrice	344	Derko, Mike and Mary	401
Alton Family	292	Breadner, Carman	345	Deschamp, Fred	403
Anhorn, Arthur	293	Breault Family	346	Deshoux, Pierre Sr.	404
Anhorn, Mr. and Mrs. Fred	294	Brettelle Family	347	Doherty	404
Antonson Story, Carl	295	Brockie Story, J.	348	Donald, Robert Family	408
Aquin, Alphonse	297	Brooks Family	349	Dubois, Albert and Goldie	410
Arlow, Tom	298	Brook, Fred	349	Duke of Sutherland Farm	411
Armitage, Dave	299	Brown, Archie R.	350	Durstling Family, Carl	412
Ashby Story	799	Brown, Doug and Vera	351	Durstling Family, William	412
Astill, Jack	300	Brown, R. E. (Earl)	353	Dusseault, Frank and Annie	415
Astill Family	300	Brown, J. A.	353	Dusseault, George	416
Bacon, Charles	301	Brown, Les and Doris	356	Dusseault, Jack and Mary	416
Baker, Charles	302	Brown, Nelson	357	Dusseault, John	416
Baker, William E.	303	Brown, Rhad	358	Dusseault, J. G. and Aurore	417
Baldwin, Lloyd G.	303	Buchanan, Edward E. (Christine)	359	Dusseault, Moise (Moses)	418
Bannister, Erwin and Julia	304	Bunker, Phyllis	364	Dyer, John Robert and Myrtle	418
Bannister, Orville	306	Burchett, Walter	366	Dyer, Melba Alice	419
Baxandall Family	306	Burns, W. J.	368	Dyer, Clayton Robert	419
Baxandall, Donald	307	Bush, Bill	369	Dyky, Family	420
Baxandall, Fred	308	Bushaw, A. H.	369	Easton, J. L.	420
Baxandall Roots	309	Byvank Family	370	Edgson Family	420
Beakhouse, Edward J. (Ted)	313	Calderwood, David	370	Edgson, Arthur	422
Beart, Gab	314	Cameron, William	371	Edgson, Charles	423
Beaton Family	314	Campbell, Woodrow	372	Edgson, Frank and Bella	424
Beatts, The	315	Campbell, Eric and Ethel	372	Elliott, O. W.	424
Beaudoin, Family	316	Campo Family	373	Elliott, W. A.	425
Belval, Frank	316	Cannard, Henry	374	Elliott, William John (Jack)	427
Benjamin, Camile	317	Cannard, Gordon	375	England, John and Nan	429
Bennett, Lawrence G.	317	Cannard, Myron	375	England, John	430
Bennett, William A. C.	319	Carew, George	376	Erickson, Andrew	431
Bentley, Grace and Arthur	319	Carruthers, Tom	377	Falk Family	432
Bernard Family	322	Casavant Family	377	Fawcett, H. (Bob)	432
Berry Family	322	Caton, Marion E.	378	Ferguson, Buckley and Mary	432
Berry, Tessie and Robert	322	Charlier Family	379	Filion, Louis	433
Bibby, Joe and Anne	323	Charrois, Jean B.	381	Finnigan, David John	433
Bibby, Wes.	324	Chauvet Family, Jean-Marie	382	Fitzgerald, Mildred (Phillips)	434
Bidne, Orland and Zella	325	Clement Family, Thomas	382	Fitzsimmons Family	435
Bigg, F. J. (Jack)	327	Coates Family	385	Flintoff, Francis	435
Biggeman, Family	328	Cole Family, Ernest	386	Forbes, Joseph Charlton	436
Bilodeau, Albert	329	Collins Family	387	Forbes, Neil	437
Bilodeau, J. Alphonse	329	Colwell, Ernie and Ruth	388	Fortier, Aime and Provincial, Wilfred	438
Bilodeau, Philippe and Marguerite	330	Colwell Family	389	Fortin, Art and Irene	439
Bishop, Hubert	331	Conkin Family	389	Fortin, George	440
Bishops of Clyde	331	Cowley, J. W. and Lena	390	Fortin, Omer and Pat	441
Blackburn, Lucien and Clara	332	Craddock, Mr. and Mrs. V.	391	Frankland, Joe and Helena	442
Blanchette, Gaudias	332	Crawfords Sojourn in Westlock	391	French, George and Clara	442
Blythe, David and Lillian	333	Crone Family	392	Fricke, Family	442
Bohna, Family	333	Cross, David	392	Frigon Story	443
Bokenfohr, William (Bill)	334	Cross, Mr. and Mrs. Herb.	393	Frigon, Johnny	445



Gagne, Amadie .....	446	Howie, Archie and Hazel .....	522	MacLachlan, Donald .....	602
Gamble, Herbert (Bert) .....	447	Howey, John and Ethel .....	523	MacLachlan, George .....	604
Gamble, Nell and Ern .....	448	Howie, Family .....	523	MacLean, Rev. M. M. ....	605
Gander, Charles .....	450	Hudec, Joe .....	524	MacLean, Fred and Jenny .....	605
Gannon, James .....	450	Hunt, Ernest and Jane .....	525	Madsen, Fred and Norah .....	605
Gardam Family .....	451	Hunter, J. E. and Margaret .....	529	Mannen, Family .....	606
Garde Family .....	453	Huot, Alphonse .....	529	Manning, William J. ....	607
Garon, Adelard (Sr.) .....	454	Huots .....	530	Marko, Mike Sr. ....	608
Garon, Adelard (Jr.) .....	455	Janssens, Robert .....	530	Matear, James and Margaret .....	609
Garon, Amedee .....	455	Jack, Family, George .....	531	Matthews, Jack .....	610
Garon, Cyprien .....	456	Jack, Family, William .....	532	Mauch, Adolph .....	610
Garrison, Daphne .....	457	Jack, William J. ....	533	May, Bob .....	611
Garrison, William .....	458	Jenkins, George and Annie .....	534	May, William .....	612
Garth, Robert and Joyce .....	458	Jessop-Baird, Charles and Martha .....	534	May, Percy John .....	612
Gibson, Maynard and Lena .....	459	Johnson, Con .....	537	May, R. W. and Becky .....	614
Gibson, Myra .....	460	Johnson, Ernest J. ....	538	McAlpine, Bernard and Tessie .....	615
Gilchrist, William .....	461	Johnson, Ralph and Lila .....	539	McConaghy, William .....	616
Gillies Family .....	461	Johnson, Ron and Barbara .....	540	McCullough, William John .....	617
Glebe, Douglas and Eileen .....	463	Johnson, Stuart J. ....	540	McDonall, Lois Jean .....	618
Glebe, Fred .....	464	Johnston, Fletcher and Lily .....	541	McEachern, Peter .....	618
Glebe, John (Jr.) .....	465	Johnston, O. and S. ....	544	McGlone, Art .....	626
Glebe, William (Bill) (Sr.) .....	465	Jolivette Story .....	545	McGlone, Leroy Willard .....	627
Glebe, Mrs. Henry .....	465	Jones, Bob and Betty .....	549	McGregor, Family .....	628
Glebe, John (Sr.) and Elizabeth .....	467	Jones, Family, Owen .....	550	McIntosh, William .....	630
Glebe, Sidney and Myrtle .....	468	Jorgenson Family .....	551	McKenzie, Clyde .....	630
Glen, Charles Family .....	469	Jorgensons of Hazel Bluff .....	552	McLachlan, Stuart and Mary .....	631
Goller, Henry and Sally .....	470	Kaliski, Marian .....	552	McLaughlin, James .....	632
Goller, Herman and Johanna .....	471	Kallal, Gerald .....	553	McLellan, Family .....	635
Goodine, Ora (Boyd) .....	471	Kallal, W. J. Sr. ....	553	McMillan, Don .....	635
Goodmans, The and Woodland Hall .....	472	Kallal, William J. Jr. ....	554	McMillan, George and Ivy .....	636
Gordon Family .....	475	Kelly, J. Valentine .....	555	McMillan, George and Kitty .....	637
Gosches of Clyde .....	478	Kinsellas, The .....	556	McMillan, Kitty .....	638
Gougeon, Joe and Dinah .....	479	Kipp, Family, Herb .....	557	McMillan, George and Maggie .....	638
Gaupie, Felix .....	480	Kitz, Norman .....	558	McMillan, Hugh and Vinita .....	641
Gower, Gordon .....	482	Klassen, Matt .....	559	McMillan, Loyd and Ida .....	642
Gower, Thomas .....	483	Kramps, August Sr. ....	559	McMillan, Neil and Wanda .....	643
Green, James and Myrtle .....	483	Kramps, August L. Jr. ....	560	McMillan, Family, Thomas .....	644
Green, Dick and Julia .....	484	Kreklaui, Carl .....	561	McNivens, The .....	645
Greenfield Family .....	486	Labby (L'Abbe) Family .....	562	McQuarries, Alex .....	645
Gregorwich Family .....	487	L'Abbe, J. U. ....	563	McRae, John and Margaret .....	646
Greig, George E. ....	488	Labelle, Paul .....	563	McTavish, George .....	647
Grant, Richard .....	489	Lachance, Trefle and Leonie .....	564	Measures, Family .....	648
Gray, John .....	489	Lambert, Jerome .....	565	Mercier, Joe .....	650
Gray, William and Annie .....	490	Lane, Harry .....	566	Merryweather, Frank .....	651
Gurney, William and Lena .....	491	Lane, Tom .....	566	Mestons of Clyde .....	651
Hadley, Vera (Weir) .....	493	Lang, Donald .....	567	Miller, Bill .....	652
Hanlan, Roy and Margaret .....	493	Langille, Luther and Mabel .....	419	Miller, Norman F. ....	653
Hanna, Helmar .....	494	Larson Family .....	568	Miller, Tracy S. K. ....	653
Hasse, Elsie, Riverdale Memories .....	494	Leake Family, Charles E. ....	569	Milligan, Family .....	654
Hatfield, Ed .....	419	Le Beaus .....	570	Mills, Oran and Ella .....	655
Heemeryck, Joe Family .....	496	Lecky .....	571	Mirus, Family .....	655
Herring-Cooper, William and Eunice .....	497	Lefebvre, Aldemard .....	573	Modin, Louis Elmer .....	656
Hersey, Henry Charles .....	498	Lefebvre, Bill .....	574	Mohrmann, Henry and Robert .....	658
Hess, Joseph (Joe) Aloysius .....	498	Lefebvre, Georges .....	574	Montpellier, Albert and Emma .....	659
Hewson, Sid and Dell .....	499	Lefebvre, Yvanhoe and Eva .....	575	Morasae, Gedeon .....	660
Heywoods, Tom and Elizabeth .....	499	Lefebvre, Story The .....	575	Morin, Albert .....	660
Hide, Clifford .....	503	Leger, Story The .....	578	Munn, Family, Archie .....	662
Hide, Henry and Harriett .....	504	L'Heureux, Napoleon .....	579	Munro, Stanley William .....	663
Hide, Leslie .....	505	L'Heureux, Children .....	580	Munro Family of Busby .....	663
Hide, Ray Harold .....	506	Lentz, Alex and Pearl .....	581	Munsterman, Bella (Boyd) .....	664
Hill, Bob and Family .....	507	Leriger, Paul and Marion .....	582	Mutzenek, Family .....	664
Hill, Henry W. ....	508	Letts, Family, George Harry .....	583	Nadeau, Fred and Diana .....	665
Hill, Max .....	509	Lindahl, Lindy and Marie .....	584	Nadeau, Philippe and Sharon .....	666
Hodgins, Leslie and Ella .....	510	Loque, R. A. (Bob) .....	587	Nagel, Carl and Ruth .....	667
Hogarth, Family .....	511	Loree, Charlie and Esther .....	587	Neilson, F. ....	556
Hokes, The .....	512	Loree, Lawrence and Pearl .....	588	Nelson, Abe and Hilda .....	667
Holley, Thomas .....	514	Lyons, Albert Jr. ....	590	Nelson, Charles .....	669
Hollingshead, Archie .....		Lyons, Albert (Bert) and Christina .....	591	Nelson, Louis Gustav .....	670
— 1922-1953 at Westlock .....	514	Lyons, Fred .....	591	Nessler, Hart and Audrey .....	672
Holm, Harold and Judie .....	516	Lyons, William and Bella .....	592	Nicholson, Family .....	672
Hone, Family of Clyde .....	517	MacCabe, Alva Henry (Mac) .....	593	Nickerson Story .....	673
Hope, George and Olive .....	519	MacDougall, Family, Dan .....	595	Noel, John .....	676
Horrocks, Family .....	520	MacDougall, May and Mac .....	596	Noel, Gorman .....	680
Houle, Edourd .....	520	MacGregor, Family .....	597	O'Brien, Patrick .....	680
Houle, Emilien .....	520	MacIntyre, Angus .....	597	O'Donnell, Lawrence .....	681
Houle, Raymond and Simone .....	521	MacLachlans Sr. ....	598	Oldenburg, Willie and Wanda .....	683

Olsens, The	684	Sabourin, Joseph Elie and Corrine	741	Thomson Brothers — James, John and David	802
Ouellette, Joseph	688	St Jean, Eva	743	Tober, Erwin and Elsie, Family	804
Pankonin, Family	688	Sampson, Samuel, Family	744	Townsend Story	805
Paquette, Ernie, Family	689	Sands, Dr. Syd H. and Myrtle	745	Tracy, William Gilmore, Family	807
Patterson, Fred, Family	690	Scabars, Mike of Clyde	746	Truckey, Clarence, Family	808
Parsons, Family	690	Schlachter, Jacob, Family	747	Trudel, Family	810
Parton, Alfred	694	Schmidt, John, Story	748	Turner, George and Jessie	811
Paull, Harvey and Lenora	696	Schmidt, John — A Tribute	749	Twidt, Clarence and Phyllis	812
Peacock, Family	696	Schmode, Samuel, Family	749	Tymkow, Leo and Helen	813
Pelletier, Henry, Family	696	Schreiner, Katharina	750	Vadheim, Arnie G. and Emily A.	813
Pelletier, Ludovic T.	697	Schreiner, Matt	750	Valcourt, L. P.	814
Pelletier, Yvon and Rachelle	697	Scott, Bruce, Family	751	Vanalstine, James and Lottie	815
Peter, W. Harry, Family — 1929-1984	698	Scott, Harry	752	Vannatter, James E.	816
Peterson, Martin and Hulda	699	Seibert, Herb, Family	753	Van Nieuvenhuysen, Family	816
Petrin, Mdm Leda — Clover Valley Area	699	Seibert, Vernon	754	Viriding, William (Bill)	818
Phillips, Sidney Hugh	703	Seminiuk, Clifford and Valerie	755	Verding, William	818
Pickard, William	705	Seward, Family	756	Violet, Family	819
Pierce, Gordon	705	Shaver, Abel, Family	757	Violet, Vance and Mary	819
Platt, William, Family	706	Shaw, William Charles	757	Waggs, Harry of Clyde	820
Platt, Maisie — Memories	709	Sherwin, Story	757	Wahl, William (Pastor) and Family	821
Pollards	709	Short, Ivan and Ruthie	759	Watson, Charles, Family	821
Poloway, Bill and Mary	710	Shutt, Family	760	Watt, Alexander (Allie)	824
Poloway, Carl and Helen	711	Skaalen, Family	760	Watt, James L., Family	825
Poloway, Walter and Pauline	713	Smith, Albert and Sylvia	761	Watt, Miller, Family	828
Pombert, History	714	Smith, D. C.	618	Webb, Family History	829
Ponting, Richard C.	716	Smith, George, R.	761	Weber, Joseph, Family	830
Poulson, Henry — S.E. of Sixteen	716	Smith, J. E. (Jim)	762	Weleschuk, Ivan and Anne and Families	830
Prokop, Mike	716	Smith, Richard (Dick) and Jane	763	Weleschuk, Fred	834
Provost, Romeo	717	Smith, Andy and Sadie — Homestead Days	763	Weleschuk, Theodore and Rosalia	834
Proudllove, J. T.	717	Snyder, Alberta (Bertie Lentz)	768	Wendland, Robert and Hilda	836
Proulx, Phillip, Family	719	Sparks, Pat (Boyd)	768	West, Harry, Family	837
Proulx, Wilfred and Olive	719	Spragge, Wilson and Keitha	769	Westgate, Fred, Family	838
Racine, Family	720	Squair, W. B. H. (Bill)	770	Wharton, Ray and Ida	838
Raymont, H. P. and Louisa	721	Stacey, Wesley and Alice	771	Wheatley, Robert	839
Rector, Vernon and Mary	721	Stanley, Story — Treasured Memories	771	White, John D. and Emily	840
Rector, Walter, Family	722	Stanton, George Egar	773	Whiteman, Will and Flo	841
Reed, Manford	723	Stanton, Henry Ernest	774	Wiedrick, Arnold, Family	841
Reid, Edith Cunningham	724	Stanton, Story	776	Wiedrick, Emerson and Mabel, Family	842
Reid, Ernest and Laura	725	Stephens, Orton B. Family	777	Wiersema, John and Jane	843
Renaud — History	725	Sterling, George and Fanny	778	Wiese, Esther — Memories of Dapp and Westlock	844
Renaud, Paul, Family	726	Sterling, Leonard and Jennie	780	Wightmans, Wilbert and Bertha	845
Renaud, Raymond and Loretta	727	Sterling, Milton and Joyce	781	Wilson, Lloyd and Vera	845
Renton, Family	727	Sterling, Rita	781	Wilson, Tom and Ruth	849
Rigby, Frank and Mabel	729	Sterling, Russell and Jean	782	Wirtz, Fred	849
Riopel, Arthur	729	Sterling, William and Eva	783	Witter, Boltz and Eva	849
Ristoff, Family	730	Stewart, Wilson and Sarah, Family	784	Wodelet, John P.	849
Rivet, Dave	731	Stewart, John	785	Wood, Edgar and Lydia	849
Rivet, Frank	731	Stewart, Doreen	786	Wood, Alf and Family	853
Roberts, Evan and Betty Rose	731	Stewart, Robert	787	Wood, Thomas and Marjory	854
Roberts, Urias (Bob)	717	Stratton, Floyd	788	Wood, William John (Will)	854
Robins, Family	732	Sutherland, Alexander, Family	789	Woodman, Dorothy Louise (Pybus)	857
Robinson, Herbert and Dell	733	Swaren, Roland, Family	793	Yoeman, Sr., and Family	858
Roch, Joe, Family	735	Tally, Hiram and Millicent, Family	795	Yoeman Story	859
Roddick, Aaron, Family	736	Tally, Ivan and Kathleen	796	Zaczowski Story	861
Roddick, John and Mercy	737	Tally, Millicent — A Tribute	797	Zurfluh, Rudolph	862
Rosendales, The	738	Taylor, Jack and Bell	797		
Ross, Arthur Mack	739	Taylor, Peter and Lettie	798		
Ross, William (Bill) A., Family	740	Tennant and Ashby Story	799		
Sabourin, Ernest and Clara	740	Terhorsts, The	802		



## General Index

Banks		Trinity Lutheran Church	72	Schools	
Bank of Montreal	231	Westlock Church of Christ	61	Schools	150
Bank of Nova Scotia	231	Westlock Gospel Chapel	85	Arvilla School District #2036	170
Savings and Credit Union	232	Westlock United Church	82	Bouchard School District #3369	172
Royal Bank of Canada	232	Youth Activities	106	Boudreau School District #3893	173
Toronto Dominion Bank	232	Documents	917	Brooklyn School District #2036	174
Treasury Branch	233	Entertainment		Busby Park School District #3781	176
Businesses		Chautauqua	266	Clover Valley School District #2558	177
Acknowledgements	iv	Fair Parade	904	Clyde School District #1741	179
Alberta Wheat Pool	35	Farmers Maple Leaf Band	121	Cotswold School District #1862	182
A & M Store	36	Town Band	126	Dungannon School District #1461	184
Beaver Lumber Company	36	Westlock School Band	122	Edison School District #1029	186
Bees	37	Westlock School Band	124	Elk Park School District #2982	189
B & K Mini Mart	36	Farm Homes	887	Hazel Bluff School District #1905	191
Clyde Bon Ton Store	38	Farm Machinery	896	Pibroch School District #3410	192
Crown Jewellery	40	History		Poplar Knoll School District #1953	196
Clyde Drug Store	39	Early Days in Westlock	30	Prosperous School District #3981	197
Clyde Skyscrapers	3	Early History of Edison	6	Racine School District #2143	200
The Dutka Brothers	41	Early Life in Hazel Bluff	13	Riverdale School District #1534	202
East Glen Bakery	43	Eastburg History	6	Springfield School District #1495	203
First Radio Shop in Westlock	43	Hazel Bluff Hall	16	Springwell School District #4454	204
Ford Dealership	44	Hazel Bluff District	11	Springview School District #1358	205
Flower Shops in Westlock	44	Hazel Bluff Memories	17	Sunnybank School District #2771	205
General Clyde Businesses	55	History Book Committee	v	Swallowhurst School District #1815	210
General Westlock Businesses	57	History of Pickardville	21	Trails End School District #4292	211
Holyk Super Drug	45	Memories of Pibroch	18	Vermilion Springs School District #1619	213
Liquor Store	46	Oldtimers' Cabin	102	Vimy School District #3585	216
Massey Ferguson Store	46	Oldtimers' Night	xi	Violet Hill School District #1903	217
Medicine Bottle Drugs	48	Pibroch Story	20	Wabash School District	218
Miller Farm Equipment	48	Pioneer Hardships	31	Westlock School District #3208,	
Pembina Farmers Seed Cleaning		Settlement at Edison	8	History of	218
Association Ltd.	49	Story of Sunniebend	27	Westlock School Division #37	165
Pembina U.F.A. Co-op	49	History of Vimy	29	Westlock School	169
Pickardville Lumber Yard	50	Westlock — A Local History	31	Woodglen School District #2068	228
C.F.O.K. Radio Station	111	Westlock Area — Pre Settlement Days	vi	Building Project — R. F. Staples School	161
Renaud's Hardware	51	Westlock Oldtimers	105	The Old Brick School	163
Saddle & Tack Shop	52	Organizations		Westlock School Music Festivals	126
U.F.A. Farm Supply	52	Alberta Women's Institute	87	Industrial Arts	129
United Grain Growers	52	Busby Story	1	Good Old Golden Days	129
Westlock Appliances	53	C.N.R. Station — Clyde	111	Home Economics	131
Westlock Decorating Centre	41	Clyde Community Hall	4	Physical Education — Westlock	133
Westlock Feed Mill	54	Eastburg Hall	6	A One Roomed School	136
Westlock Funeral Home	54	Eastburg Post Office	112	Rural Education 1939-55	140
Westlock Home Furnishers Ltd.	55	Eastburg Women of Unifarm	93	School Centralization	147
Churches		4-H in Westlock	96	School Libraries	149
Busby United Church	73	Kinette Club of Westlock	99	Services	
Christ Church Cemetery	67	Kinsmen Club of Westlock	99	Auxiliary Hospital & Nursing Home	235
Church of St. Mary	70	Knights of Columbus	100	Kickham Clinic	235
Church of the Nazarene	66	Westlock Agricultural Society	104	Medical Men of Westlock	236
The Church on the Hill	61	History of Westlock Farm		Midwives	236
Clyde United Church	75	Womens Organizations	95	Nursing Home in Westlock	237
Eastburg Church	67	Order of the Royal Purple	103	Pembina Lodge	237
Pentecostal Tabernacle	68	Westlock Drop In Centre	87	Dr. G. Whissell — 45 years of Service	239
Pibroch United Church	77	Westlock Elks Lodge	93	Westlock Nurses Chapter	240
Pickardville United Church	78	Westlock Golden Age Club	97	Law & Order in Clyde	247
St Benoit Council	68	Westlock Hospital Volunteers	98	Light	45
St Mary's C.W.L.	69	Westlock Municipal Library	123	Pembina Post Office	112
St Philip's Anglican Church	71	Westlock Masonic Lodge	101	Post Office Story	113

Railroading in Westlock .....	114	Harvey Doherty — Mr. Baseball .....	267	Miscellaneous Pictures .....	887
Road Building .....	116	Early Sports in Westlock .....	269	Our Roll of Honour .....	253
Saw Mills .....	900	How Golf Started in Westlock .....	270	Patrons .....	v
Telephone Service at the Bluff .....	117	Horseshoes .....	271	People We Remember .....	864
Transportation .....	894	Westlock Figure Skating Club .....	271	Photos of Interest .....	905
Westlock R.C.M.P. Story .....	249	Westlock Girls Softball Team .....	272	Preface .....	iv
Westlock Telephone Service .....	120	25th Anniversary — Westlock		Recollections & Reflections .....	871
Sports		Hockey Team .....	273	Volunteer of the Year 1981 .....	886
Baseball in Westlock .....	265	Clyde Sports .....	276	Volunteer of the Year 1982 .....	886
Hunting & Fishing .....	903	Westlock Sports .....	278	Weddings .....	890



























3 1221 08291 6904





